BIHAR

IN

1936-37

BY

S. M. WASI,
Information Officer.

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NOTICE.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS volume deals with the financial year 1936-37, namely from the 1st April 1936 to the 31st March 1937. Besides reviewing the various nation-building activities of Government, it deals with the general elections under the new constitution and the events which preceded the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy.

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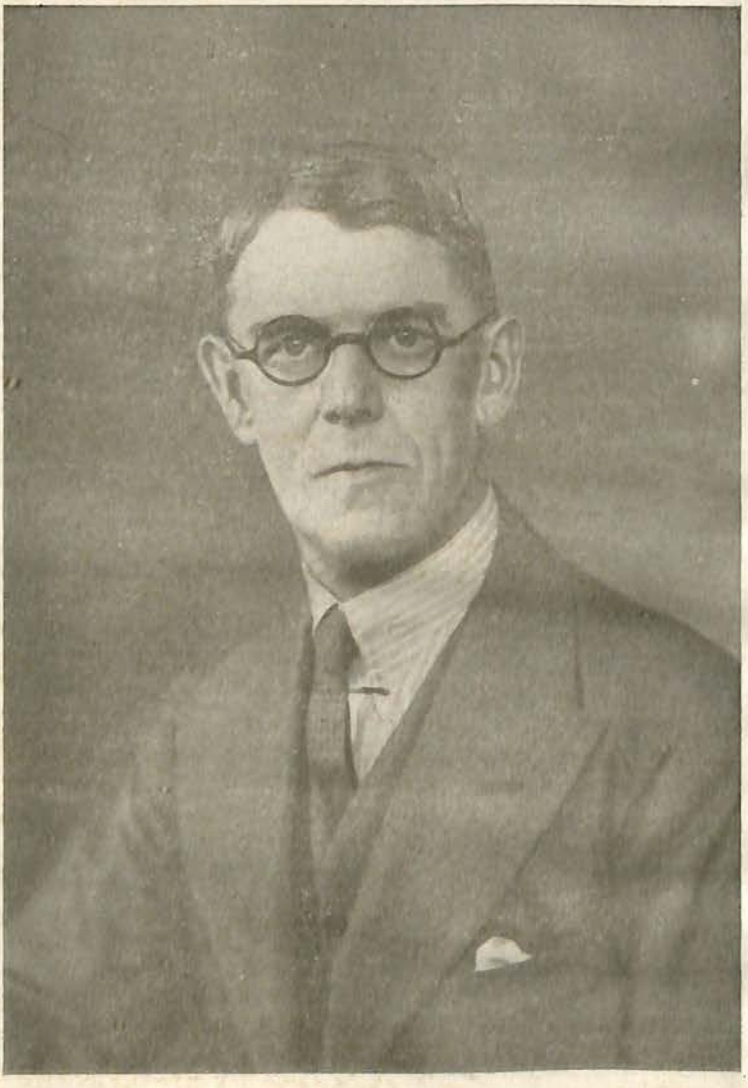


His Excellency Sir MAURICE GARNIER HALLETT,
K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Governor of Bihar.

CHAPTER 1.

Political and general events.

On the eve of the New order.

The year 1936-37 was a momentous one, as it marked the re-entry into the Legislature of the Congress, the largest and most disciplined political party and national organisation in the country, and the setting of the stage for the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy.

Constitutional changes.

The dyarchic system at the end of this year yielded place to a new constitutional structure in the provinces to be founded on the principle of Provincial Autonomy. This involves the transference of the administration of all subjects in the provinces (including Law and Order) from the control of the official bureaucracy to the control of Provincial Ministers responsible to the Legislature. Under the new constitution the executive authority of the province runs in the name of the Governor, but in the Ministerial field the Governor exercises that authority on the advice of his Ministers. The new constitution also provides for the setting up of a bicameral legislature for the province consisting of a Lower House to be called the " Legislative Assembly " with 152 members. all elected on a much wider franchise, and an Upper House to be called the " Legislative Council " with 30 members, of whom 14 are directly elected, 12 elected by the Lower House and 4 nominated.

Preparations for the elections.

Consequent on the increase in the number of constituencies and the extension of the franchise the election to the Provincial Legislature under the new constitution necessitated preparations on a much more elaborate scale than hitherto to deal with the various stages of the electoral programme. The Elections Office, which was constituted on the 1st April, 1936, carried out successfully the various stages of the operations. The electoral rolls were finally published by the 16th October, 1936, for the general constituencies of the new Provincial Assembly in which seats are reserved for members of the scheduled castes and by the 25th November, 1936, for other general constituencies. The total number of electors on

the new rolls was 2,412,229 as against approximately 367,000, on the last electoral roll prepared under the previous constitution.

The elections.

The election to the Legislative Assembly took place between the 22nd and 29th of January 1937. The province was divided into 129 territorial constituencies, including 70 general (5 urban and 65 rural), which latter includes 15 seats reserved for members of scheduled castes and 7 seats reserved for representatives of backward tribes, 39 Muhammadan, 4 women including 1 Muhammadan, 1 Anglo-Indian and 2 European, besides 13 special constituencies, including 1 Indian Christian, 4 Commerce and Industry, Mining and Planting, 4 Landholders, 3 Labour (non-union) and 1 University. The elections in the fourteen territorial constituencies of the Legislative Council, 9 general, 4 Muhammadan and 1 European, were held simultaneously with the Assembly elections. Primary elections were held in November, 1936, in the 15 general rural constituencies of the Assembly in which seats are reserved for members of the scheduled castes with the object of enabling the scheduled castes voters in each of these constituencies to elect a panel of 4 candidates for the reserved seats. As a result of a working agreement between the Congress and the Depressed Class League the majority of the candidates for these seats were returned without any contest. In 9 of these constituencies only one qualified candidate was nominated at the primary election, with the result that he was automatically elected not only to the panel but also to the reserved seat, and in each of the remaining six constituencies two qualified candidates were nominated and were declared to have been duly elected to the panel. The number of scheduled caste electors in the 15 constituencies was 64,897.

Electoral rolls.

Considering that the franchise was extended so as to give a total electorate of 2,412,229 or about seven times the size of the previous corresponding electorate, and that in all the electoral rolls for the Assembly occupied nearly 40,000 pages of closely printed matter and the roll for a single general constituency covered 469 pages on the average, the task imposed upon the election machinery was formidable. The rolls showed the distribution of electors by districts and divisions in the different classes of territorial constituencies, the distribution of electors by individual constituencies and the distribution of electors by municipal wards, police-stations and other similar units in the General, Muhammadan, Labour and Women's constituencies

of the Assembly with the polling stations appointed for each unit. Generally speaking, the electoral rolls for the General and Labour constituencies of the Assembly were prepared and published in the language in which the record-of-rights of the locality is maintained. But in order to remove certain anomalies which had arisen due to the strict observance of this rule, linguistic areas were determined in consultation with the District Officers, and the language to be used for the roll of each area has now been specified in the Governor's Rules, which also prescribes in detail the language of the rolls for all other constituencies and classes of constituencies. An exception to the general rule relating to the language of the roll for the general and labour constituencies was made in Jamshedpur, where the population is so cosmopolitan and polyglot that it was found convenient to prepare all the rolls for this locality in the English language. Both the draft rolls and final rolls for the Muhammadan constituencies of the Assembly were published in the English language. The language of the rolls for constituencies of the Assembly other than General and Labour constituencies and for all constituencies of the Council was English. The total Assembly electorate of 2,412,229 persons includes 2,010,664 general electors, of whom roughly 225,000 are scheduled castes and 186,335 are women, 324,393 Muhammadan, of whom 31,854 are women, and 2,963 Anglo-Indian and European electors. The total number of electors in the territorial constituencies of the Council was 7,673, including 5,455 general, of whom 655 were women, 1,723 Muhammadan, of whom 323 were women, and 495 European, of whom 78 were women.

The Poll.

Throughout the province polling was carried out successfully and with a minimum of disturbance. Notwithstanding the great increase in the electorate, polling arrangements proved adequate and no serious difficulty was experienced in the conduct of the elections.

There were 339 duly nominated candidates for 152 seats of the Assembly. 21 of these seats, including 9 reserved for members of the scheduled castes, were filled without contest. In 104 single-member constituencies, the election was contested. Of these constituencies, 65 nominated 2 candidates apiece, 30 nominated 3 candidates apiece, 7 nominated 4 candidates apiece and 2 nominated 5 candidates apiece. Triangular and quadrangular contests were more in evidence in the Muhammadan constituencies than in any other class of constituencies. There were 12 two-member constituencies in which both the seats were contested. Of these

constituencies, 1 nominated 3 candidates, 7 nominated 4 candidates apiece and 1 nominated 7 candidates. There was only one three-member constituency, namely, the Singhbhum General Rural constituency, inculding 1 reserved seat for a representative of the backward tribes, and in all six candidates were nominated for these three seats. All the territorial constituencies of the Council returned one member apiece. In two of these constituencies the election was uncontested, in two others there was a triangular contest, and in each of the ten remaining constituencies there was a straight fight between two candidates. There were 16 candidates in all for the 12 seats to be filled by the votes of the elected members of the Assembly. Nominations for these did not take place until after the declaration of the results of the election in the territorial constituencies of the Council.

There were in all 457 polling stations and 599 polling booths for the recording of votes. The eight days covered by the poll were declared to be public holidays, and almost all the gazetted officers, a few suitable non-officials and others were mobilised for the recording of votes. In the Patna City Muhammadan Urban constituency special polling booths, staffed exclusively by ladies, were provided for all women voters. Elsewhere it was not possible to provide special polling booths for women, but at most of the urban polling stations a Lady Assistant Presiding Officer was appointed to give advice and help to the women voters. The number of " innocent " personators was reported to be very considerable during the last elections, which meant that a fairly large number of brothers, sons, grandsons, etc., of registered electors came to the poll to vote on behalf of their relations and this as a rule was done in good faith and in ignorance of the law. They were not, of course, allowed to vote but no penal action was taken against them. Most of the returning officers reported that deliberate personation was rare, while others were of the opinion that it was carried out on an appreciable scale, especially in respect of female electors whose identification was a matter of great difficulty. Votes were recorded by post in all the territorial constituencies of the Council, in the Anglo-Indian and European constituencies of the Assembly and in all the " special constituencies " of the Assembly except the Labour constituencies. This system of voting did not work well in practice and led to much criticism. As a result of this experience the local Government decided to abolish the postal voting in the Landholders' constituencies of the Assembly and in all territorial constituencies of the Council except the European constituency.

Parties and electioneering.

The franchise forms the basis of representative Government and in view of a substantial extension of the franchise it may be well to see how far this enlarged electorate reacted to the appeals of the various political parties in the field. In the words of Mr. W. G. Lacey, Election Officer, " The Congress Organisation was infinitely superior to that of any other party. This party had unity, cohesion, discipline, leadership and a vast army of workers who penetrated into the remotest villages. It also had the advantage of a programme which appealed more forcibly to the imagination than that of any other political party ". Never before was the unity and strength of the Congress as an organisation so strikingly demonstrated as on the occasion of the elections. The Congress contested almost every general seat for the Assembly, including the seats reserved for the scheduled castes and the backward tribes. The Moslems were divided into three distinct groups, the Independent Party, the United Party and the Ahrar Party. But there were also a large number of Moslems who did not stand on any party ticket. Though generally speaking the Independent Party was regarded as having an advanced political outlook among the Moslems it accommodated in its ranks almost every possible shade of political opinion. There were a variety of labels by which the non-Congress candidates for the general and special seats were described, namely, the Independent, Moderate, Progressive, Constitutional, Co-operator, Anti-Congress, No-party, etc. They lacked organisation and suffered from the serious disadvantage of being regarded as " pro-Government ". The elections witnessed a marked advance in the technique of electioneering with the issue of " election addresses ", meetings and the broadcasting of leaflets and posters. Extensive tours in the province were undertaken by Congress leaders of all-India repute, and the psychological effect of these tours was considerable. A novel and effective piece of electioneering on the part of the Congress was the chartering of an aeroplane during the days of the poll which broadcasted leaflets urging the electors to vote for the Congress candidates. The more wealthy candidates took full advantage of the removal of the restriction on hiring conveyance to take electors to the poll, and mild " treating " was indulged in on a fairly large scale. But it did not always follow that the candidate who provided these amenities reaped the reward of his generosity. According to the Elections Officer a favourite Congress slogan was " if they feed you with *puris*, eat them, if they board you on motors, get into them; but in the polling compartment remember to be

careful ". And this canny advice was taken to heart literally by thousands of voters, both male and female. But, of all the forms of electioneering that were employed, the most effective was the magic appeal of Mahatma Gandhi's name.

Analysis of voting.

The percentage of electors voting was as high as at a British election, and this shows the extent of political interest and consciousness which the elections had aroused. Taking all the contested elections for the Assembly together, 59.2 per cent of the registered electors recorded valid votes. The percentage of male voters on the present occasion was 64.5, which is substantially higher than it has ever been before. The percentage of women voters was highest in the constituencies in which seats are specially reserved for women members. In two of the such contested seats taken together over 40 per cent of the registered women electors went to the poll. In other urban areas the percentage of women voters was about 20 per cent, the Muhammadan figure being distinctly lower than the General. But in the rural constituencies only 1 Hindu woman in 25 went to the poll, and only about 1 Muhammadan woman in 60. The aboriginal women in the districts of Ranchi and Singhbhum were more forward than their sisters elsewhere and in these two districts the percentage of rural women voters was just over 20. In the labour constituencies a still higher proportion of women went to the poll. In the contested elections for the Council the percentage of votes recorded was even higher, namely, 66.9 per cent; and in five out of the nine general constituencies it exceeded 85 per cent. This result was made possible by the small size of the Council electorate and the system of postal voting. A special meeting of the newly-constituted Assembly was held to elect 12 members of the Council by the method of the single transferable vote. Only 144 members took part in the voting.

Congress in the majority.

It was expected that a party so well organised as the Congress, so intimately in touch with the rural masses and their needs, with a popular and attractive programme and with the magnetic personality and inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi behind it was bound to achieve a sweeping victory at the polls. Out of a total of 152 seats in the Assembly the Congress contested 107 and captured 98, i.e., 65 per cent of the total seats and 92 per cent of the seats contested and had approximately 75 per cent of the total votes cast in their favour. In the general urban constituencies the Congress captured all the 5 seats, while in the rural constituencies the

Congress were able to secure 68 out of 73 seats. In the scheduled caste constituencies also the Congress captured 14 out of 15 seats, while they captured 5 out of the 7 Moslem seats they contested, secured 3 out of 4 seats reserved for women and 2 out of 3 Labour seats. The next largest party was the Moslem Independent Party with 20 seats. No-party members numbered 24, and the remaining 10 went to others. So far as the composition of the Council is concerned, the Congress did not succeed in returning any of their five candidates from the territorial constituencies, but they secured the return of eight of their nominees by means of indirect election by the Assembly. The Congress thus also command an absolute majority in the two Houses taken together.

Office Acceptance Issue.

The Congress having won their legislative spurs and commanding an absolute majority, all attention was focussed on what decision this important party would take on the question of office acceptance under the new constitution in the province. The position was clarified on 18th March, 1937, when the All-India Congress Committee, at its meeting at Delhi, adopted a resolution permitting Congressmen to accept office in provinces where the Congress commanded a majority in the Legislature if the Leader of the Congress party was satisfied and could state publicly that the Governor would not use his special powers of interference or set aside the advice of Ministers in regard to their constitutional activities.

The constitutional deadlock.

Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha, Leader of the Congress Party in Bihar, was summoned by His Excellency the Governor, on the 24th March, 1937, to assist him in forming a Ministry. In accordance with the directions given by the Congress Mr. Sinha asked for the necessary assurances before undertaking the responsibility of forming a Ministry. These not being given in the form required, Mr. Sinha expressed his inability to undertake the formation of the Ministry. In a statement on the constitutional deadlock which had thus arisen Mr. Sinha pointed out that he could form a Ministry only if His Excellency could assure him that with regard to the constitutional activities of his cabinet he would not use his special powers or set aside his advice. Within the scope of Provincial Autonomy, he thought, there must be real responsible self-government and the Government of the province must be carried on according to the declared will of the people. If they were to be asked to take up the responsibility of Provincial

Government they must have the fullest freedom of action within the sphere of Provincial Autonomy. The special powers given for certain purposes meant a negation of real responsible Government and they must not be used. The Governor could create a convention straightaway by giving the required assurance. His party had been returned to the Assembly in an overwhelming majority by more than 75 per cent of the votes polled. The electorate had given their approval in clear and distinct terms to the policy and programme of the party laid down in its election manifesto and still a party with such a majority to give effect to the popular mandate had to depend on the goodwill of the Governor and not on the basic principles of responsible Government. In the official communique it was stated that it was not possible for His Excellency for constitutional reasons to agree to give the assurances in the terms demanded but that at the same time the Ministry, if formed by the Congress Party, could rely upon receiving from him all possible help and support in carrying out their duties. The communique added that the responsibility for the decision not to accept office rested on the Congress Party, for the terms of the Act were mandatory and even if a Governor wished to divest himself of the obligations imposed on him by the Act and by instructions he had no power to do so. There could be no question of any understanding restricting or limiting the obligations imposed on the Governor by that document. As the majority party in the Legislature was unwilling to accept office in these circumstances, the Governor called upon Mr. Yunus as leader of the next largest party to form a Ministry. An *ad interim* Ministry was formed amidst much political excitement and popular opposition.

Communal relations.

The year was one of comparative communal peace though a few clashes between the Hindus and Muslims occurred. On the 24th April a Hindu marriage procession was attacked by some Muhammadans at Jamalpur and a cooly, who was carrying a petromax lamp, died of his injuries. There was communal trouble on the 25th of October, the Dasahra Day, at Aurangabad in the Gaya district, when a Dasahra procession was pelted with stones and other missiles while it was passing a mosque. A serious outbreak of communal rioting occurred at Sasaram on the night of the 23rd November, when a large number of Hindu religious processions were passing through the streets. They had agreed to refrain from playing music near the mosque and this undertaking was apparently

being observed. The narrow streets were crowded with processionists escorted by the Subdivisional Magistrate and his subordinates and the police, when a Hindu was stabbed in a side lane by some unknown person. The news threw the procession into disorder and the members of it attempted to make their way back along the route by which they had come. The officers were able, with great difficulty, to force the processionists on to a place of safety. A state of panic occurred and though the whole town was immediately picketed by the police, stray attacks took place. In all two Hindus and two Muhammadans were killed and there were a number of injuries. An additional police force was quartered in the town to keep peace. On the occasion of the Bakr-Id there were only two minor incidents in Gaya and Shahabad. In Monghyr attempts were made to establish a practice of taking out armed processions at the Bakr-Id but this was checked by firm action of the local officers. The Muharram also passed without any outbreak except in the coalfields. A cracker bomb containing missiles was thrown into a procession at Jharia on the 24th March injuring four persons and a similar occurrence took place later on at Chatatanr, about four miles away. The police then had to disperse a Hindu mob which collected with the intention of attacking the procession.

The Kisan movement.

The Kisan movement gained momentum during the year. A number of meetings and conferences were held, at which the grievances of the Kisans were voiced. In South Bihar, the raiyats continued to petition the subdivisional officers regarding their grievances and the local officers sought to adjust the differences. Swami Sahjanand, the Kisan leader, carried out a lecturing tour of the province. An important development was the setting up of a Congress Kisan Enquiry Committee which opened its tour of the province on the 1st of June, 1936, after issuing a comprehensive questionnaire. The Committee first visited the Gaya district. The procedure which the committee followed was to record evidence and to enlighten the tenants by speeches to resist illegal exactions and to represent their grievances. The Committee finished its enquiries in Gaya in three days and then passed to Shahabad, Patna and Chota Nagpur and after an interval visited the Bhagalpur and Tirhut Divisions. The election manifesto issued by the Kisan Sabha emphasised that the Sabha would work in close collaboration with the Congress and would do its best to help the Congress in the elections. The manifesto distinguished between the basic and immediate demands on behalf of the Kisans. The

former included the abolition of the Zamindari system and the writing off of agrarian debt, while the latter included the abolition of rent in kind, the exemption of uneconomic holdings from rent, the cancellation of arrears and the reduction of rent and canal dues by one-half. The manifesto also promised help both to landless labourers and to small zamindars. The Kisan Sabha agitation was most noticeable in the Patna and Gaya districts. There was one incident in the interior of the Patna district, where a sub-inspector of police was temporarily detained by a mob of rioters who were desirous of taking possession of *nilami* land. He was rescued by a police party who had to fire in the air to effect their object. There were numerous disputes at Gaya, in which the Magistrates had to intervene. During the latter part of the year there was an outbreak of agrarian trouble in the Mokamah Tal in the district of Monghyr over the question of bakasht lands, and there was a good deal of looting of crops. A case under section 153 of the Indian Penal Code and section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code was started against Babu Karjanánd Sharma and his supporters who had identified themselves with the agitation regarding the Tal tenants. The landlords also appeared to have whipped themselves up to resist the Kisan agitation. The local authorities succeeded in controlling the situation. Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha and other Congress members of the new Legislative Assembly visited the area and after consulting the District Magistrate attempted to effect a reconciliation.

Political and other movements.

" Independence Day " was celebrated throughout the province by holding meetings at which the Independence pledge was read. At Patna the celebration was preceded by a flag-hoisting ceremony. There were also a number of meetings held to celebrate " Political Prisoners' Day ". The Socialists were busy with the organisation of Youth Leagues, branches of which were formed in the various districts. The Socialist party held their Provincial Conference at Patna on the 5th and 6th December, 1936.

" Palestine Day " was observed on the 27th September, 1936, when a number of meetings were held at which the Muslim concern at the position in Palestine and sympathy with the Arabs were voiced.

A radical Muslim conference was held at the end of August 1936 at Patna, at which resolutions were passed advocating the

boycott of the Palestine Conference, the condemnation of the new constitution and appealing to Zamindars to reduce rent.

The Muslim United Party also held their Provincial Conference on the 3rd and 4th October 1936.

There was a large number of caste meetings in connection with the social uplift movement among the Musahars of the Tirhut Division. A later development of this movement was a demonstration at Muzaffarpur, at which complaints were made against a local factory. There was a similar demonstration at a factory in Darbhanga, but both passed off without incident. More serious trouble was caused when the Musahars collected at Dalsingsarai in the Darbhanga district and demonstrated against a local zamindar. The police force had to be used to break up the mob and the leaders and some 30 of their followers were arrested. In the melee a number of police officers and others received injuries.

Abdication of King Edward VIII.

The general feeling was one of regret at the abdication of King Edward VIII. The newspapers in the province generally extended their sympathy to the monarch who was face to face with a conflict of two principles equally noble, and who was called upon to make a grievous choice. The Instrument of Abdication and the message were read by His Excellency the Governor at a formal meeting at which members of Government and high officials were present.

Proclamation of New King.

The accession of King George VI was publicly proclaimed on the 14th December before a large gathering at Patna which was attended by His Excellency the Governor. The proclamation took place in the Secretariat compound.

Labour.

A feeling of unrest among labour manifested itself in the number of strikes which occurred. The strikes at the Steamer Workshop at Digha gained a new lease of life by the persuasion used to get the workmen at other stations to join. But later it weakened out, when the Company obtained sufficient new hands. There was an affray between the rival groups and 34 men had to be arrested and sent up for trial. But the local authorities having agreed to withdraw the rioting case if the strikers gave no further trouble, the men left the neighbourhood of the workshop. The friction between

Mr. Homi and the Tata Iron and Steel Company at Jamshedpur culminated in the issue of an order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code forbidding meetings, picketing and the collection of money in public places. But later the terms of this order were modified making it clear that Mr. Homi was at liberty to make house to house collections through the agency of single collectors and when permission was given him to hold meetings he could make collections at those meetings. There was a movement at Jamalpur for the purpose of organising the workmen in the railway workshop and in the Tobacco Company at Monghyr. There was a sectional strike in the railway workshops on the question of restricted free passes and apprehended retrenchments on the 6th August, 1936. Later the situation quietened down. There was another strike in the Bengal Nagpur Railway at Bhojadih, Adra, Bhaga and Mohuda. The strikers all belonged to the Carriage and Wagon Department and to the Loco sheds. About 200 sweepers under the Adra Station Committee also came out in sympathy and later resumed work. This was followed by a general strike on the Bengal Nagpur Railway. In that part of the railway which falls within Bihar the strikers remained fairly peaceful considering the magnitude of the strike and the length of time it had lasted.

The Press.

The year was one of progress in the newspaper world in the province. The elections to the new Legislature provided much scope for newspaper enterprise and 15 newspapers and periodicals appeared in Patna alone. The most important papers were the *Searchlight* and the *Indian Nation*, the two English dailies, the *Bihar Herald* and the *Sentinel* (Ranchi), English weeklies, the *Navashakti*, the leading Hindi weekly which converted itself into a daily as a temporary measure later in the year, and the *Muslim* and the *Ittehad*, Urdu weeklies. The elections and later the constitutional crisis over the Congress demand for assurances were the main topics of discussion in the Provincial Press. After the elections were over much attention was devoted to speculations whether the Congress would form Ministries in the Provinces where they had a majority in the Legislatures. The formation of the interim Ministry was severely criticised. The Faizpur Congress, tenancy reform, rural indebtedness, co-operation, irrigation, flood protection and cane cultivation were among the other more widely discussed topics in the provincial sphere. Security under section 1 (1) of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act was demanded from the publisher of the Urdu newspaper *Azad*, which later ceased

publication, while the Urdu newspaper *Istiqlal* and a new Hindi magazine *Yugantar* failed to deposit the security demanded from them. The security of Rs. 1,500 demanded from the keeper of the Searchlight Press and the publisher of the *Searchlight* newspaper was refunded.

Floods.

Although, fortunately, the floods this year were not so extensive as in 1934, they nevertheless caused serious damage in the areas which they affected and considerable discomfort and suffering to the population concerned. The floods first appeared in the district of Saran, where the damage was most severe caused almost entirely by the water of the river Gogra. The two bunds at Tajpur and Naini having given way, the Gogra water flooded inland across the country to the north and east of Chapra town and eventually some of the water found its way as far as Sonepur in the south-east corner of the district. In the Siwan subdivision altogether about 130 square miles over 200 villages were flooded, and 2,000 houses collapsed. In the Sadr subdivision, the total area affected was 360 square miles, including 430 villages. In the whole district, relief was given in 486 villages, 2,771 persons were rescued and 934 cattle; 25,976 persons were given relief. Over 4,000 houses collapsed. 52 boats and 3 steamers were in use for relief and rescue works and a number of relief centres were opened. Non-official organisations, such as the Bihar Central Relief Committee, the Traders' Association and the Marwari Association of Chapra, collaborated in relief measures. Government spent Rs. 12,500 on relief in the district. The effectiveness of the rescue arrangements may be judged from the fact that only three human lives were lost. The number of cattle lost was 20. The problem of supply of fodder for the cattle presented some difficulty but efforts were made to encourage the people in the flooded areas to grow quick catch-crops. The rise of the Ganges caused the inundation of the diaras lying in the Raghopur and the Mehnar thanas of the Hajipur subdivision. The only loss of life which occurred was when a private boat which was overloaded capsized. Unfortunately 23 people, mostly women and children, were drowned. Gazetted officers were deputed with food-supplies and cash to tour in the worst affected areas, and food and cash were distributed to the poorer classes. Relief centres were organised and a number of boats were in use. The people of the diara villages were brought to the mainland with their cattle and arrangements were made to accommodate the refugees. A total sum of Rs. 3,500 was given to the District

Officer for urgent flood relief. The other districts of the Tirhut Division were fortunately not appreciably affected by this particular flood. In the Patna Division, the Sone and the Ganges were in high spate. The area affected by the flood was 1,550 square miles in the Patna district and 700 square miles in the Gaya district. In Shahabad, the area most affected was the northern half of the Sadr subdivision along the Ganges. A large area of makai crop was damaged but there was no loss of life or cattle. Magistrates were sent to the affected area to afford whatever relief was necessary. In the Patna district most of the diaras were inundated. While a fair proportion of the inhabitants of the diaras with their cattle crossed over to the mainland, some of the people of the lower classes preferred to remain in their homes on account of their cattle and could not be persuaded to leave as the crossing entailed difficulty at a time of high wind and strong current. Arrangements, therefore, were made to send out boats to the affected area to ascertain from the people if they were in need of food which they might not be able to obtain locally. Even more than that of the Ganges the behaviour of the Dhoa and the Mahatwain *naddis* gave cause for anxiety. The whole belt of the country between these two streams across the Barh subdivision was completely inundated. The damage to the *bhadai* crop was serious in the whole area between these two streams. The only loss of life in the Patna district, which was indirectly due to the flood, was that of 4 women who were proceeding to cut maize in the diaras near Bakhtiarpur in a country boat which collided with a large boat causing the women to fall into the river and to be drowned. Government sanctioned Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 1,000 for gratuitous relief and Rs. 31,000 and Rs. 20,000 under the Agriculturists' Loans Act in the districts of Patna and Gaya respectively. In addition Government allotted a sum of Rs. 9,000 each to the districts of Patna and Gaya for free grants for the reconstruction of houses of landless labourers, which were damaged or destroyed by the floods. Besides, an additional grant of Rs. 3,000 was sanctioned by Government which was placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of the Patna Division for distribution between these two districts as he thought best. In the Bhagalpur Division the most serious damage occurred in the district of Monghyr. The Ganges was swollen owing to very heavy rainfall affecting the Sadr and Begusarai subdivisions. Breaches having occurred in the Tirhut road, a mile east of Begusarai town, part of Begusarai town and most of the surrounding country was under water. Prompt relief measures were taken. A steamer was obtained from

the railway and was brought into use. The total number of persons rescued by the steamer was about 4,000 in Monghyr Sadr and 5,000 in Begusarai. The total area affected was 900 square miles, of which 265 square miles were seriously affected. 65 square miles in the Begusarai subdivision were flooded as a result of the erosion of the Gupta bund. The total number of cattle rescued was about 15,000. About 2,000 houses were destroyed in Begusarai and about 30,000 persons were fed by Government agency and 20,000 by private agencies. The makai crop was a total loss and there were considerable losses of chilly seedlings and potato runners. The cattle problem in Monghyr which first appeared to be acute was relieved by the action of the Banaili Estate which permitted some 10,000 head of cattle to be grazed in their Kharagpur jungles. In the Bhagalpur district, the Monghyr-Bhagalpur road was overtopped and some villages on the northern bank of the Ganges in the Bihpur thana were inundated. Rescue work was done by steamers. There was no loss of life but a good deal of damage to the *bhadai* crop. In Purnea the north bank of the Ganges, about 36 miles in length and 8 miles in breadth in Barai, Katihar and Manihari thanas, was flooded, the last named thana being mostly affected. There was no loss of life or cattle. Rescue work was organised and free rations were distributed to the destitute. *Bhadai* and paddy crops in the flooded areas were practically destroyed. In the Santal Parganas, the flood affected only the Rajmahal subdivision. Some human beings and cattle were rescued in a steamer but the water was insufficiently deep to enable the steamer to approach many of the *bustees*. Country boats were also brought into use, many of which were manned by volunteers. In the affected area the paddy crop was reported to have been completely destroyed. In order to relieve the distress caused by floods, Government expended Rs. 70,274 on gratuitous relief in the affected areas in the province, and advanced Rs. 2,41,904 as taccavi loans. Besides Rs. 16,000 and Rs. 5,000 were given as free grants to the districts of Saran and Monghyr respectively for the reconstruction of houses of landless labourers from the sum placed at the disposal of Government by the Managing Committee of the Indian People's Famine Trust.

Economic situation.

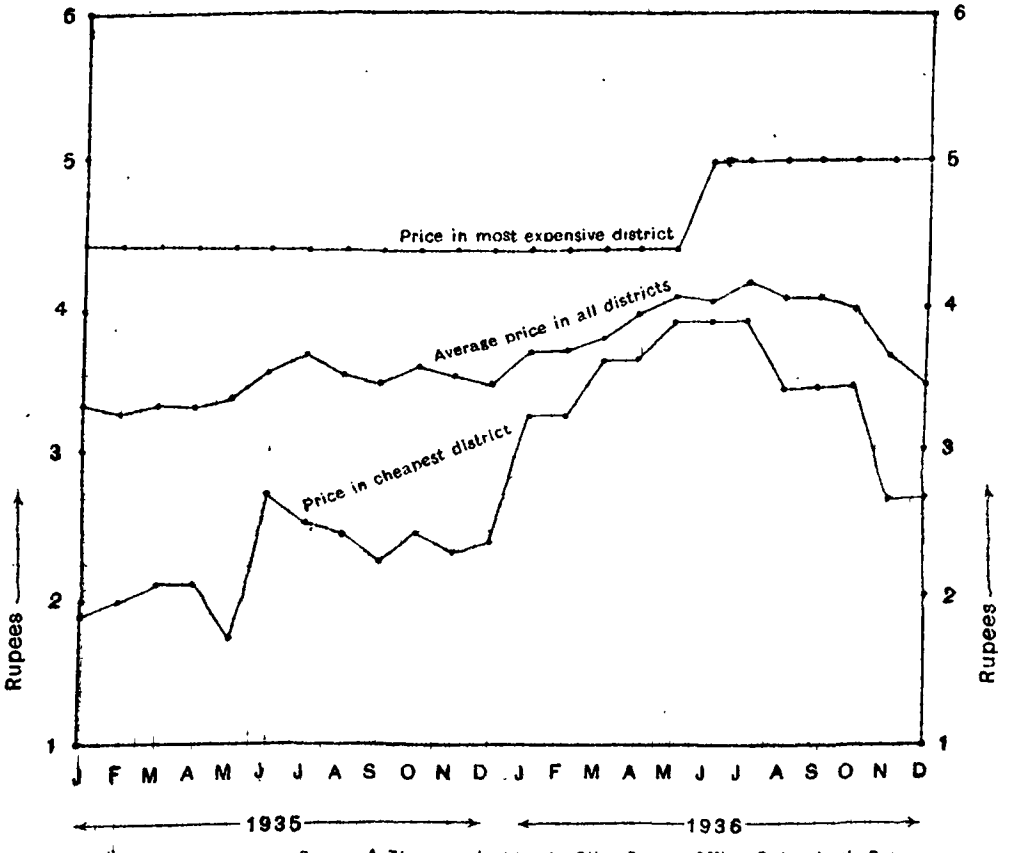
With the favourable monsoon during the year agricultural conditions showed definite signs of improvement. The monsoon broke early and the rainfall was ample and well distributed. The outturn of crops, especially of autumn and winter rice, was better and the collection of rents by Zamindars improved. The

condition factor for *bhadai* and winter rice crops was finally estimated at 91 and 96 per cent respectively of the past ten years' average and that of sugarcane was estimated at 95 per cent. Excessive rain and floods were responsible for partial damage to *bhadai* and paddy crops in parts of Patna, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and the Santal Parganas. A heartening factor in the situation was the rise in the price of common rice during the latter part of the year. The average price of rice for the province was 10.17 seers against 11.03 seers at the corresponding time in 1935 in July, 10.12 seers against 11.02 seers in August, 10.09 seers against 10.98 seers in December, 10.47 seers against 10.70 seers in October, 10.98 seers against 11.20 seers in November and 12.22 seers against 11.19 seers in December. Owing to overproduction of sugarcane and a bumper crop the price of cane was low and the cultivators experienced great difficulty in disposing of their stock, but the difficulty was to some extent mitigated by Government inducing the mill-owners to extend the crushing season. The extremely low price of lac caused a prolonged depression in the industry reacting very unfavourably upon the general population.

There was no marked change in the wages of labourers. Rural development schemes provided work to an appreciable number of villagers. In mining areas of Singhbhum the housing conditions of labour continued to be deplorable and arrangements for sanitation and water-supply were far from satisfactory. The number of emigrants from Hazaribagh fell from 447 to 71; whereas in Ranchi it rose from 6,285 adults with 3,269 dependants in the previous year to 7,838 adults with 3,633 dependants and in Palamau from 430 adults with 226 dependants to 726 adults and 453 dependants. In the Santal Parganas 420 persons emigrated against 490 in the preceding year. There was no emigration from Monghyr to the tea districts.

The Government measures to relieve the economic distress included the advance of taccavi loans to the extent of Rs. 80,809 to the Patna Division and the distribution of Rs. 95,137 in the Tirhut Division for the general purpose of relief of agricultural distress and for the purchase of *rabi* seeds. Besides in part of the district of Muzaffarpur affected by the floods of 1936, Government suspended the collection of the instalment due on the sand clearance loans distributed after the earthquake and the issue of certificates against defaulters was stayed, whereas in the districts of the Bhagalpur Division, agricultural loans to the extent of Rs. 1,18,093 were distributed. In addition to these loans, special

Diagram showing the price in rupees of one standard maund of common rice, month by month, in 1935 and 1936



Drawn & Zincographed in the Bihar Survey Office, Gulzarbagh, Patna.

taccavi loans were distributed in Purnea to the *raiyats* affected by the floods. In Government estates, remissions of rent were allowed in cases of hardship.

The Viceroy's visit.

Ranchi, the summer capital of Bihar, was the first place to be visited by His Excellency the Viceroy at the end of July, 1936, during his first monsoon tour since assumption of office. A feature of the visit was that His Excellency made expeditions to villages in the neighbourhood of Ranchi to investigate rural conditions.

The Administration.

His Excellency Sir James David Sifton, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.C.S., vacated his office of Governor on the forenoon of 10th March, 1937 and His Excellency Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., assumed charge of it on the forenoon of the 11th March, 1937. His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett's assumption of office was generally welcomed in the Press and a leading newspaper described his return to the province as "of the nature of homecoming". On the eve of the introduction of Provincial Autonomy the following members of the Governor's Executive Council and Ministers vacated office :—The Hon'ble Mr. Nirsu Narayan Sinha, the Hon'ble Mr. P. C. Tallents, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., the Hon'ble Sir Ganesh Dutta Singh, Kt., and the Hon'ble Mr. Saiyid Abdul Aziz.

At the High Court, the Hon'ble Sir Courtney Terrell, Kt., (Barrister-at-Law) continued to hold the office of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, while the Hon'ble Sir Stewart Macpherson, Kt., C.I.E., I.C.S., retired from the Bench with effect from the 21st August 1936, and was succeeded by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice F. G. Rowland, I.C.S.

His Excellency Sir James Sifton spent about three weeks on tour during the year. Among the important places visited were Muzaffarpur, where he inspected the road-widening and improvement scheme and the new buildings constructed after the earthquake, Monghyr, where he inspected the Jamalpur workshops, the Railway colony and the buildings in the fort area at Monghyr and Purnea and Darbhanga, where he inspected the progress of earthquake reconstruction and building works.

His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett made his first public appearance on assumption of office at the Bihar Provincial Exhibition on the 15th March, 1937, at Patna, where in a speech he emphasised the need for the development of Bihar's indigenous industries.

CHAPTER II.

Finance.

Financial implications of the new constitution.

On the eve of the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy it may be well to indicate how the province will start financially under the new dispensation.

Sir Otto Niemeyer recognised that this province needed assistance to the extent of 30½ lakhs annually after taking into consideration the extra annual liability of 5½ lakhs imposed on the province for the payment of interest on provident funds. Effect was given to this recommendation by the cancellation of all debt due by the Government of Bihar to the Government of India which was estimated as equivalent to a grant-in-aid of 27½ lakhs and by an increase of 12½ per cent in the share of jute export duty given to the province estimated to yield an additional 2½ lakhs. In addition the provincial Government's deficit in ordinary balance (32½ lakhs) caused by borrowing in previous years from its balances was cancelled. The actual budgetary benefit accruing to the province by the cancellation of debt and deficit will work out at an average of Rs. 33 lakhs annually for the first four years, an average of Rs. 19 lakhs for the next 17 years and thereafter Rs. 11½ lakhs in perpetuity.

The province is also to receive 10 per cent of the amount by which the receipts from railways *plus* the receipts from income-tax exceed 13 crores in a particular year.

Reaction to the Niemeyer Award.

It was generally held that the financial assistance provided by the Niemeyer Award was inadequate to start the province on an even keel. The local Government demanded Rs. 45 lakhs, exclusive of the extra-liability for provident funds referred to above, as the minimum immediate requirements as a grant-in-aid and they felt that this figure was fully justified by the financial history of the province, which has been starved since it came into existence in 1912 and has been forced to maintain a standard of administration lower than in any other province. As a result of a detailed examination of the financial position of the province

by Lord Eustace Percy's Committee it was found that, on the assumptions made by that Committee, the province would be in deficit to the extent of Rs. 70 lakhs if no addition were made to its sources of revenue. The following figures show that the standard of expenditure is much lower in proportion to population in this province than in any other province in India :—

Province.	Expenditure per mille of population.
	Rs.
Bihar and Orissa	1,766
Bengal	2,372
United Provinces	2,513
Assam	3,679
Madras	3,690
Central Provinces and Berar	4,229
Punjab	5,258
Bombay	8,277
Burma	9,156

Bihar's case for an adequate grant-in-aid was a strong one. It has been recognised that Bihar is the poorest province in India and has had static sources of revenue hardly adequate to meet the needs of an extremely dense population.

Causes of Poverty—Historical.

The causes of Bihar's poverty are historical. By the permanent settlement of the land revenue, which is the chief source of revenue, effected in 1793, Bihar has suffered even more acutely than Bengal. While in Bengal the annual payment of permanently-settled land revenue is something over two crores of rupees for a total area of 60,000 square miles comprised in such settled estates, in Bihar the payment is just over one crore of rupees for a total area of 67,000 square miles. It is estimated that, if the permanent settlement had not been effected and if the land revenue had been gradually increased in Bihar and Orissa on the same lines as it was increased in the temporarily-settled districts of the adjacent United Provinces, the Government of this province

would have been richer by 2¼ crores of rupees a year than it is now. Again in 1880, by a decision of the Secretary of State, the province, though richest in mineral resources, was deprived from deriving any income from these richly endowed resources, while the rapid development of the industrial areas of Chota Nagpur has merely added to the liabilities of the province necessitating as it has done a more expensive police and general administration.

Financial implications of the separation of Orissa.

Bihar has received an annual relief of Rs. 7¾ lakhs from the separation of Orissa. The expenditure, previously incurred, which has been transferred to Orissa, amounts to about Rs. 90½ lakhs and the revenue previously received which goes to Orissa is about Rs. 94 lakhs. On this account, therefore, Bihar is Rs. 3½ lakhs worse off. But with the provision for a receipt from Orissa of contributions totalling Rs. 11 lakhs Bihar, on balance, is about Rs. 7¾ lakhs better off after the separation. These contributions are for services of four distinct kinds to be rendered by Bihar to Orissa. First, to meet the cost of institutions such as the High Court and various medical and educational institutions which will serve both provinces, but will be paid from the Bihar budget. Secondly, to meet Orissa's share of the cost of certain officers and establishment who will continue to perform duties for both provinces but will be paid by Bihar. Thirdly, to provide Bihar with funds to pay pensions already sanctioned, which are properly debitable to Orissa but which are payable in Bihar from Bihar revenues. Fourthly, to provide Bihar with funds to meet liabilities arising in the future in connection with joint cadre officers. Orissa is, however, in some cases already making her own arrangements in connection with the second of these services and the receipts on this account are likely to diminish.

The financial history of the province.

Presenting his last budget of the dyarchial regime the Finance Member, the Hon'ble Mr. Nirsu Narayan Sinha, commented briefly on the financial history of the province. He pointed out that on the formation of the province it was given an opening balance of Rs. 125 lakhs, and this balance was reduced to about Rs. 106 lakhs, at the time of the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms in 1921-22. There had, therefore (when the Hon'ble Member introduced his budget in March 1936), been a reduction in balance of Rs. 83 lakhs since the formation of the province and of Rs. 64 lakhs since the inauguration of the Reforms.

Borrowings had been small, and those for financing final expenditure were limited to the 16 lakhs borrowed in the last two years and the 22 lakhs to be borrowed in 1936-37 to meet the cost of earthquake reconstruction. A casual glance at these figures might lead one to think that all is so well with Bihar's finances and that the province is free from any serious financial difficulty. But that there is another side to the picture was amply revealed by the Finance Member. He said: "The revenues of the province have, judged on a population basis, been throughout far lower than those in any other province in India, and a total revenue of about Rs. 5½ crores is wholly insufficient for the minimum requirements of the province. Every expenditure head has been starved, money for new schemes has been practically non-existent for many years and heavy retrenchments are still in force. Such additional sources of taxation as were available have been fully tapped and little additional revenue can be expected from such sources. In fact, Sir, there are two reasons and two reasons only which have saved me from having to lay before you today a budget showing the province in debt to the extent of crores of rupees. The first is that during the years of increasing revenue that followed the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, it was recognised that most of the increase in our revenue, depending as it did on the fluctuating item Excise, was unstable, that its continuance could not be relied on and that, therefore, recurring commitments must be kept at a minimum. The second is that throughout its life the province's finances have been guided along the paths of financial rectitude. My predecessors and I have balanced or attempted to balance our budgets whatever the sacrifice. We have cut our coat according to the cloth available, and it can truly be said that such was the paucity of material that we have been forced to starve the body of the province even of necessities so as to enable the coat to cover it." This picture showed vividly that the province had sacrificed itself at the altar of solvency and that the only hope of improving the standard of expenditure on the essential social services lay in the new financial settlement and whatever fresh avenues of raising additional revenue are within the reach of the province.

The Budget of 1936-37.

According to the budget of Bihar for 1936-37, as presented to the provincial legislature, the province of Bihar and Orissa ended its life with a closing balance (excluding balances of grants from the Government of India) of Rs. 42½ lakhs including Rs. 17½ lakhs in the Famine Relief Fund and the province of Bihar began its separate existence with an opening balance, excluding balances of

grants from the Government of India of Rs. 42 lakhs 55 thousand, of which Rs. 25 lakhs and 9 thousand was ordinary free balance. For the year 1936-37 revenue was taken at Rs. 4 crores 70 lakhs 24 thousand, which, after taking into account the revenue transferred to Orissa, was Rs. 11 lakhs more than the revised estimates, while the expenditure charged to revenue was Rs. 4 crores 81 lakhs 73 thousand which, after making allowance for Rs. 90½ lakhs transferred to Orissa and contributions of Rs. 7,36,000 received from Orissa, was Rs. 19 lakhs more than the revised estimates. Police remained the largest expenditure head (Rs. 71,95), Education came second (Rs. 70,45), the third place went to General Administration (Rs. 64,16) and thereafter came with a large drop Civil Works (Rs. 48,34), Administration of Justice (Rs. 35,82) and Pensions (Rs. 34,29). These transactions were expected to leave at the end of the year a total closing balance of Rs. 54,10.

The budget provided for Rs. 4,91,000 for recurring and Rs. 14,38,000 for non-recurring new schemes. The recurring schemes included many which had previously been in existence on a temporary basis and the actual new recurring commitments totalled Rs. 1,15,000.

The Legislative Council voted all the demands for grants without any alteration except that by a token cut it reduced the demand under " Agriculture—Co-operative Credit " by Re. 1.

Reasons for increase in revenue.

The main reasons for increase in revenue were first, the surplus contribution of Rs. 3,76 received from Orissa, secondly a sum of Rs. 10,00 to be received from the Government of India on account of Bihar's share in half the proceeds of the jute export duty; thirdly the increase of Rs. 2,00 under Irrigation and fourthly an increase of Rs. 87 in the revenue from Stamps and of Rs. 40 from Forests. There was also a fifth reason in the shape of a slight increase of Rs. 30 in the revenue under Excise. Some further increases of revenue were offset by a corresponding amount of expenditure in the budget estimates and, therefore, no account of them has been taken here.

Earthquake expenditure.

Because Bihar was not yet out of the staggering effects of the earthquake of 1934, the expenditure over reconstruction and relief yet remained an important item in the budget of the year 1936-37. These works, however, were nearing completion and it is possible, therefore, at

this stage to get an approximately accurate idea of the total expenditure to be incurred over this head and the whole position is summarised in the table below.

Particular of work.	Expenditure incurred upto the end of the financial year 1935-36.			Expenditure incurred in 1936-37.	Estimated expenditure after 1936-37.	Total.
	Provincial revenues.	Central revenues.	Borrowing by Provincial Government.			
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
A) Direct Expenditure—						
(i) Restoration of Government buildings to pre-earthquake conditions.	..	32,62	32,61	32,00	15,00	1,16,86
(ii) Improvements in or alterations to pre-existing Government buildings.	1,05	..	..	3,58		
(iii) Reconstruction of local bodies and aided schools, etc.	..	68,51	..	28,48	53,57	(a)1,50,56
(iv) Other expenditure directly attributable to the earthquake.	(b) 9,00	(c) 2,65	..	..	..	11,65
Total ..	10,05	1,03,78	32,61	64,06	68,57	2,79,07
(B) Assistance in the shape of loans to persons in affected areas.—						
(i) Sand Clearance Takavi ..	..	..	25,76	..	..	..
(ii) Loans under the Natural Calamities Loans Act..	..	..	29,12	4,07	7,40	..
(iii) Loans to Planters and Zamindars.	10,22	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	10,22	..	54,88	4,07	7,40	76,57

(a) Including 42 on account of cost of audit.
(b) Includes 4,25 sand clearance grants.
(c) Disposal of sugarcane.

The table does not show the source from which earthquake expenditure incurred after the 1st April, 1936 was financed, as the Government of India placed at the disposal of the Provincial Government on the 1st April, 1936, Rs. 99,83, the whole of the balance of the fund for reconstruction of earthquake damage, as it stood on that date, in full satisfaction of its promises of assistance in connection with the earthquake. The total assistance received from the Government of India has been Rs. 2,03,61, out of the total expenditure of Rs. 2,79,07. The balance of 76 lakhs fell on provincial revenues. This burden was met by the local Government by borrowing 32½ lakhs from the Government of India

before the 1st April. 1936 and the balance by expenditure from provincial revenues. The local Government also borrowed from Government of India to lend money to earthquake-stricken people. The outstanding balance of the earthquake loan along with other debts borrowed from the Government of India has, however, been cancelled as a result of the Niemeyer Award. But as already explained in a previous paragraph this cancellation was given in lieu of a grant-in-aid.

CHAPTER III.

The Legislature.

By-election and sessions of the council.

There were during 1936-37 three bye-elections—two for the Bihar Legislative Council under the Government of India Act, 1919, for the constituencies, East Patna Muhammadan Rural and Hazaribagh Non-Muhammadan Rural and one for the newly-constituted Bihar Legislative Assembly under the Government of India Act, 1935, for the constituency, Saran Sadr Muhammadan Rural. All the three bye-elections were uncontested. For the East Patna Muhammadan Rural Mr. Saiyid Akbari was returned on the 28th July 1936. For the Hazaribagh Non-Muhammadan Rural Mr. Krishna Ballabh Sahay was returned on the 7th October 1936. For the Saran Sadr Muhammadan Rural, Maulavi Nur Hassan was returned on the 9th March 1937. Throughout the year the Hon'ble Babu Rajandhari Sinha, who had been elected to the chair on the 15th December 1933, continued to be the President of the Legislative Council.

Under paragraph 5(1)(*a*) of the second schedule to the Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) Orders, 1936, the constituencies returning members to sit in the Council for the Orissa Division of the Province of Bihar and Orissa ceased to be constituencies of the Bihar Legislative Council. Consequently Rai Bahadur Lakshmidhar Mahanti, the Deputy President of the Council, who represented the North Cuttack Non-Muhammadan Rural Constituency, ceased to be a member of the Council. Under section 72*c*(4) of the old Government of India Act the election of a Deputy President was held on the 1st September 1936. There were three candidates for the office of the Deputy President, namely Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Hafeez, Rai Bahadur Satis Chandra Sinha and Maulavi Khalilur Rahman. The last member withdrew his candidature, leaving a straight contest between Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Hafeez and the Rai Bahadur. The former was duly elected having secured 44 votes against 26 of his rival.

Two sessions of the Council were held, one at Ranchi in August-September 1936, and the other at Patna in November the

same year. Meetings altogether were held on 10 days, of which three days were devoted to the transaction of non-official business and the rest to the official business.

Legislation.

Altogether six Bills were passed by the Council during the period under review. Of these the most important was the Bihar Famine Relief Fund Bill, 1936, which was introduced on the 18th November 1936 and passed by the Council the same day. The object of the Bill was to establish a statutory fund, called the Bihar Famine Relief Fund, by withdrawing ten lakhs of rupees out of the balance of the then existing Famine Relief Fund. Formerly the Bihar Government used to maintain a Famine Relief Fund under rule 29 of the Devolution Rules. The fund was regarded as forming part of the general balances of the Government of India. The Government of India Act, 1935, contains no provisions for the continuance of this fund and with the introduction of Part III of that Act, the Devolution Rules have ceased to operate. With the commencement of the new constitution, therefore, the fund would have merged in the general balance of the province and there would have been nothing to prevent the amount from being expended on ordinary services. The Bill was accordingly introduced with a view to conserve the minimum balance to the credit of the Famine Relief Fund for the purposes for which it was originally established. The fund is not intended to be expended save upon the relief of serious famine and the relief of distress due to serious drought, flood or other natural calamities.

Another important measure passed during the year was the Bihar Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1935. This was introduced by Government on the 28th August 1935 and circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon the same day. It was referred to the Select Committee on the 29th February 1936, and passed by the Council on the 31st August 1936. The Bill as passed by the Council removed certain defects in the method of assessment of local cess on coal mines with a view to secure a stable income. The power of fixing the rate of local cess on " notified mines " was vested in the Provincial Government but the same power in respect of all other assessable property was left with district boards.

The Bihar and Orissa Municipal Act was twice amended during the year. The first amending Bill was introduced in the autumn session of 1935 and passed in the winter session of 1936. The main objects of the Bill were to empower the Provincial Government to make it obligatory on municipal commissioners to

impose a latrine tax in any municipality and to enable the Provincial Government to dissolve a municipal board which had persistently failed to perform its duties under the Act and to order a fresh election instead of superseding the board. The second amending Bill was introduced on the 18th November 1936 and passed by the Council the same day. The object of the Bill was to further liberalize the qualifications of voters at municipal elections so as to make them conform to those provided for election to the Provincial Legislature under the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Hazaribagh Mines Board Bill, 1936, was introduced by Government on the 29th February 1936, was referred to a Select Committee on the same day, and was passed by the Council on the 31st August 1936. The Bill was designed to set up a new local authority for the colliery areas of the district board of Hazaribagh comprising a largely industrialised population in order to grapple with the special problems of sanitation, water-supply, housing, etc.

The Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill, 1936, was introduced by Government on the 1st September 1936 and passed on the same day. The object of the Bill was to confer power on the Court of Wards to authorise the Manager of a Ward's estate to bring a suit in his own name when the succession to the estate is disputed and the estate is retained in the charge of the Court of Wards under section 13 or section 13A of the Court of Wards Act, 1879.

Nine other Bills, which are dealt with in the following paragraphs, were introduced in the Legislative Council during the year under report but ultimately had to be abandoned :—

(1) The Bihar Minor Irrigation and Drainage Works Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Government on the 1st September 1936, and referred to a Select Committee on the same day. But the Committee was not convened, as it was not considered necessary when it was found that the Bill could not be taken into consideration in the November session and it was left to the future Cabinet and the Legislature to adopt the measure, if necessary. The object of the Bill was to replace the Bihar and Orissa Minor Irrigation Works Act, 1922, and to provide a more effective method of initiating schemes and putting them into execution.

(2) The Bihar Tenancy (Suit Validating) Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Maulavi Khalilur Rahaman, M.L.C., on the 7th September 1936. It sought to validate suits

for recovery of arrears of rent under the Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1934.

(3) The Bihar and Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Maulavi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, M.L.C., on the 7th September 1936, and the motion for its consideration by the Council was withdrawn on the same day. The object was to lower the qualifications of voters at municipal elections to the level of those for the Provincial Legislature.

(4) The Estates Partition (Amendment) Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath, M.L.C., on the 7th September 1936. The object of the Bill was to remove certain inequitous state of things in respect of shares of an estate.

(5) The Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Babu Kalyan Singh, M.L.C., on the 7th September 1935. The object of the Bill was to define the expression "resumable tenure" so as to nullify the effect of the definition given to it by the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division in a particular case.

(6) The Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Maulavi Khalilur Rahman, M.L.C., on the 7th September 1936, and considered on the same day but the motion was ultimately withdrawn. The Bill sought to protect the interests of co-sharers in permanent tenures.

(7) The Bihar and Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Babu Kalyan Singh, M.L.C., on the 7th September 1936, and considered by the Council the same day but the motion for consideration was negatived. The object of the Bill was to compel municipalities to improve the quality of cows.

(8) The Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Babu Kalyan Singh, M.L.C., on the 7th September 1936. The object of the Bill was to compel district boards to improve the quality of cows.

(9) The Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1936.

It was introduced by Government on the 9th September 1936, but the motion for its consideration was not moved. It was intended to provide for ejectment of an illegal transferee, and the restoration of the land to the transferor and for certain other facilities.

Besides the above mentioned Bills, motions relating to the following were moved :—

(1) The Manbhum Road Board Bill, 1935.

The report of the Select Committee was presented to the Council on the 31st August 1936. But as an agreement was reached that there was no necessity of proceeding with it, it was dropped.

(2) The Bengal Land Revenue Sales (Amendment) Bill, 1935.

The report of the Select Committee was presented to the Council on the 7th September 1936.

(3) The motions for reference to a Select Committee were withdrawn in the case of the Bihar Agriculturists' Relief Bill 1936, (Bill no. 6 of 1936), the Bihar and Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1935 (Bill no. 8 of 1935), and the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1935 (Bill no. 5 of 1935).

Resolutions.

Notices of 50 (including one official) resolutions were received, of which four were disallowed under the Legislative Council Rules and Standing Orders.

As many as 12 resolutions on matters of general public interest were tabled for discussion, of which three resolutions received from different members related substantially to the same subject. Only seven resolutions, including one official, were actually discussed, of which two were negatived, three were withdrawn and two were adopted. The two resolutions, which were carried, were important and evoked an animated discussion. The first one stressed the need for providing funds for the improvement of cattle breeding, while the next demanded an investigation into the causes of floods in North Bihar. All the three resolutions withdrawn deserve special mention. One was about the imposition of restrictions by sugar factories on cane-growers in the matter of sale of sugarcane which was withdrawn when the Hon'ble Minister for Education undertook on behalf of Government to deal with specific cases of corruption or dishonesty practised by a factory on

the cultivators. The next one wanted the amendment of the District Board Election Rules. The resolution was withdrawn when it was stated that there was ample time for the next district board election and it would be considered by the future Government. The third one suggested irrigation of suitable lands by means of tube-wells. It was withdrawn when the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department undertook on behalf of Government to increase the number of boring plants and extend the activities of the engineering section.

Among the resolutions rejected one was for the reduction of the Son canal rates and another urging the reopening of the cattle-breeding farm at Monghyr.

Four adjournment motions were tabled to discuss matters of urgent public importance. Of these, two were disallowed by the Hon'ble the President and one regarding the situation at Aurangabad owing to the licence for taking out a Dassarah procession not being granted was discussed and withdrawn.

There was only one special motion for discussion of the report of the Unemployment Committee which was moved and adopted.

Questions.

Twenty-nine questions remained pending from the winter session of 1936 and notices of 232 fresh questions were received during the year under report, of which 21 were disallowed under the Legislative Council Rules and Standing Orders. One hundred and seventy-three questions on a wide range of subjects were actually put and answered against 476 in the preceding year. Seventeen questions lapsed and four were withdrawn. In addition, 199 supplementary questions were asked against 330 in the previous year.

The Budget.

Although the life of the last Legislative Council under the old constitution was extended until the 1st April 1937, in view of the introduction of Provincial Autonomy with effect from the 1st April 1937, no session was held in January-March, 1937, for presentation of the budget for the year 1936-37. To enable the business of the Provincial Government to be carried on between the 1st April 1937, and the date on which a schedule of authorised expenditure was to be authenticated in accordance with the provisions of section 80 of the Government of India Act, 1935, His Excellency the Governor authorised such expenditure from the revenues of the Province as he deemed necessary.

The report of the Public Accounts Committee on Appropriation Accounts for 1934-35 was considered and adopted.

Supplementary demands.

Forty-four supplementary demands for grants were presented, all of which were carried.

His Excellency's address.

On the 21st November 1936, His Excellency Sir James Sifton, addressed the Legislative Council at Patna for the last time and prorogued the session. In the course of his farewell address His Excellency reviewed the coming constitutional changes and struck an optimistic note about the future.

Deaths.

In course of the year there died Mr. E. S. Hoernle, Revenue Commissioner for Orissa, a former member of the Council, Babu Kalyan Singh, sitting member for Hazaribagh (Non-Muhammadan rural) Constituency, and Rai Bahadur Ram Ranvijaya Singh, a nominated and sitting member representing industrial interests of the Province. Special reference was also made on the sad and sudden death of Mr. N. G. Dunbar who did good and strenuous work in connection with the earthquake. The House paid warm tributes to the memory of the deceased members.

CHAPTER IV.

Local Self-Government.

General.

Generally speaking, the administration of the local bodies in the year 1936-37 was fairly satisfactory though instances of maladministration were also not wanting. Most of the district boards maintained their standard of administration quite efficiently except the district board of Saran where, due to party feeling and intrigues, a complete deadlock in every sphere of its activity resulted. Other district boards almost utilised their available funds for the benefit of the public though a little indifference on the part of some was also noticeable in the matter of expenditure on public health. Earthquake re-construction was pushed on with great energy and vigour and, during the year, all district boards nearly finished that part of their programme.

The relations between the district and the union boards, however, were not very encouraging and the former took little interest in the affairs of the latter. Since the union boards themselves did not like to court unpopularity by the imposition of necessary union-tax the district boards were rather justified in many cases in withholding their grants-in-aid or refusing to increase their contributions. The chief aim of the union boards seemed to be the acquisition of *panchayati* powers and very few in fact heeded advice and warning to improve their conditions. Municipal commissioners of some of the municipalities had been more susceptible to party factions than the members of the district boards and this tendency had been at the root of the bad working of these municipalities.

On the whole, the accounts of the local bodies appear to have been well kept and no embezzlements were reported. The relations between the Government officers and the executives of the local bodies continued to remain cordial.

District boards.

The year under review was the fourth year of the extended term of five years of the district boards. There was no change in the constitution of the boards during the year except that the Bhagalpur district board and the four local boards of that district remained under supersession throughout the year. The Purnea district board had to work short of four elected members for some months owing to resignations and there was only one bye-election in Muzaffarpur to fill in a resigned seat.

Though the statutory minimum of meetings for the district boards is only one a month, in many of the districts the number was far in excess. It was only in Hazaribagh that the lowest number of meetings (10) was reported, in Darbhanga one meeting was adjourned, in Manbhum three special meetings proved abortive on account of attendance below quorum. The average percentage of members present at each meeting was the highest (87.2) in Singhbhum and the lowest (60.83) in Gaya with a satisfactory proportion of official and non-official members.

Income and expenditure.

The total opening balance of the district boards, including deposits and unspent grants, was Rs. 38,41 on the 1st April 1936, as against Rs. 32,84 on the same date in the previous year. The increase was substantial in Hazaribagh, Gaya, Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Purnea and Singhbhum and was shared by all the boards except Patna, Saran, Champaran, and Monghyr. The total receipts of the boards from all sources, including Government grants, amounted to Rs. 1,55,50 against Rs. 1,53,91 in the previous year. The total amount available for expenditure including the opening balance, was thus Rs. 1,93,91, of which a total sum of Rs. 1,69,35 was actually spent leaving a closing balance of Rs. 24,56. Leaving aside the deposits amounting to Rs. 6,64, the actual balance to the credit of the boards stood at Rs. 17,92, of which Rs. 2,32 represents the balance of Government grants sanctioned for specific purposes. Local rates, which form the bulk of the income of the district boards, fell from Rs. 73,01 to Rs. 68,48, a net decrease of Rs. 4,53 attributable to various causes like lesser collection due to depression, low prices of food grains, etc. This decrease was shared by all the district boards except those of Champaran, Purnea, Ranchi and Singhbhum where better collection secured better results.

The aggregate income of the district boards from Government grants was Rs. 42,20 against Rs. 40,83 in 1935-36 as summarised below:—

	1935-36. Rs.	1936-37. Rs.
Education	25,52	25,14
Medical Relief and Public Health.	2,61	2,80
Civil Works	12,70	14,26
Total ...	40,83	42,20

The total expenditure of the district boards increased by Rs. 21,01, compared with that of the previous year, chiefly on account of more liberal expenditure under the head 'Civil Works'. On the whole, the financial position of the district boards, except of those of Saran, Champaran and Darbhanga was fairly sound and their closing balance was above the prescribed minimum. Besides the sources of income enumerated above, the boards derived some revenue from pounds, ferries, fines and school fees, etc., and in the case of Patna and Shahabad district boards there was some income from the light railways as well. The Cess Amendment and the Hazaribagh Mines Board Acts having come into force, it is expected that the financial position of the Hazaribagh district board will improve now and its beneficent activities will be expanded.

Education.

The district boards of the province spent a total amount of Rs. 41,06 on education against Rs. 39,95 in the year preceding. This increase of Rs. 1,11 was shared by all the boards except those of Patna, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur. In Shahabad, additional teachers were entertained necessitating additional expenditure, the stipendiary schools were paid their deficit and arrear grants-in-aid and the vernacular teachers were placed on a graded scale. Similarly, in Darbhanga periodical additions were made to the educational staff and in Purnea the Gurus were given higher rates of pay on a qualification basis and their numerical strength was also increased. In Hazaribagh the 10 per cent cut was restored and so also the one anna cut in the pay of the board-managed schools in Manbhum. In the latter district grants-in-aid of all secondary and primary schools were also restored and stipends were paid to all trained and untrained teachers according to the minimum prescribed by Government. The number of schools under the direct management of the boards increased and thus furnished an evidence of the interest taken by these bodies in the cause of education. There were 263 middle English, 83 middle vernacular, 1,582 upper primary and 1,278 lower primary schools maintained by the boards during the year against 25, 880, 1,536 and 1,255 respectively in the year preceding. In Purnea one middle English school at Barsoe was raised to the status of a high English school and two new middle English schools were opened in the district of Saran and one in Muzaffarpur. In Champaran one middle English school was abolished. Progress was maintained in the sphere of female education and the number of girls in the upper primary schools showed an increase. The Patna Division merits special commendation in this respect and it is noteworthy

that not only two additional middle vernacular schools were opened in one of its districts but co-education too received a definite and determined impetus. The district boards of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad and Monghyr did good work in introducing vocational and technical training in some of their schools and took interest in the education of the depressed and intellectually backward classes. The Gaya district board set apart a lower primary scholarship for pupils reading in Sanskrit primary schools and the Monghyr district board continued to award a scholarship of Rs. 15 to a student of the Deaf and Dumb school, Calcutta.

Public Health.

The expenditure incurred by the boards on public health increased by Rs. 52 as compared with the last year (Rs. 5,09) and was most marked in the districts of Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Manbhum mainly due to larger expenditure in combating epidemics and on works of water-supply. The expenditure on water-supply was particularly heavy in the district of Purnea. The activities of the Public Health Department of the district boards consisted as usual in combating the outbreaks of epidemic diseases by preventive and curative means and improving and disinfecting the sources of drinking water-supply in rural areas and enforcing vaccination and re-vaccination as a measure of protection against small-pox. In some district boards public health staff was also employed for propaganda work and in demonstrating the general principles of sanitation and hygiene to the general public by means of lantern lectures. Extra staff, besides the permanent health staff, was also appointed by some of the district boards to look after the sanitation of fairs and *melas* and to take precautions to guard against epidemics. The general condition of the health of the districts was comparatively better than that of the preceding year.

Medical Relief.

Besides the seasonal activities of the district boards in connection with epidemics, they had to maintain a sufficiently large number of hospitals and dispensaries to check and cure common everyday diseases. The expenditure of the boards under this head, (Rs. 14,77) excluding their expenditure on medical buildings, increased by Rs. 99 and was shared by all the boards except Muzaffarpur and Singhbhum, where there was some decrease. The total number of dispensaries, including a few Ayurvedic and Tibbi ones, maintained and aided by the boards was 410 and 108 respectively against 405 and 111 respectively during the preceding

year. Besides these the district boards of Patna, Gaya and Shahabad also contributed their quota to the Itki Sanatorium for the construction of tuberculosis wards. The provision for treatment of leprosy cases continued to be made by some of the district boards. The centres for leprosy treatment were in most cases attached to the local dispensaries. The Patna district board, besides making its usual annual contribution to the Gaya Leper Asylum and the Leper Institute at Gulzarbagh, got 92 lepers treated in its own dispensaries. The Gaya district board too contributed to the local leper asylum and gave capitation allowances to lepers attending the asylum. The Shahabad district board got its doctors trained in leprosy treatment at Calcutta, Patna, Cuttack and Darbhanga and the Saran district board made contributions to the Chapra Sadr hospital and to the two subdivisional hospitals at Siwan and Gopalganj. Seven leprosy clinics in Muzaffarpur attached to the dispensaries continued to work during the year and treated 753 patients. The Darbhanga district board maintained one leper clinic which was fairly well attended, the number of patients treated being 6,466 during the year. The two leper clinics at Jamui and Begusarai, in the Monghyr district, treated 109 patients and were financed by the Bihar and Orissa Relief Committee. There is a leper clinic attached to the Supaul hospital in Bhagalpur district and the Manbhum district board contributed Rs. 3,000 during the year towards the Dhanbad and the District Leprosy Relief Fund. Some of the district boards made contributions towards the Pasteur Institute at Patna for anti-rabic treatment. Special measures were provided by some of the district boards for medical relief to women. The Patna district board continued to contribute towards the maintenance of female hospitals at Barh, Bihar and Dinapur and besides attaching a midwife to the Hilsa dispensary it also entertained four midwives for training *dais*. The Gaya district board paid its usual contribution of Rs. 6,000 to the Lady Elgin Zenana Hospital and employed midwives in nine dispensaries for maternity work. Two midwives and eleven trained *dais* were kept in Shahabad and a midwife each in Champaran and Darbhanga to train village *Chamains* and attend labour cases. The Bhagalpur district board made a provision of Rs. 1,000 for maternity and child welfare schemes in its budget for the year under report and also sponsored a proposal to have a trained midwife of its own. The Muzaffarpur district board gave Rs. 600 to the local maternity and child welfare society. Scholarships were awarded by most of the district boards for medical education of students in the Allopathic, the Ayurvedic and the Tibbi systems and medical examination of school children

was conducted in some of the districts by local dispensary doctors or by the health officers of the district boards.

Veterinary.

The veterinary side of the activities of the district boards cost about Rs. 2,24 or Rs. 16 more than in the previous year though the number of dispensaries and veterinary assistants remained the same. The number of animals treated at Bhagalpur and Purnea and in the districts of Chota Nagpur was considerably larger and two additional posts of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons were sanctioned in Shahabad and one in Muzaffarpur. The Patna district board appointed a farrier at the Dinapur Veterinary dispensary and there was a shoeing forge attached to each of the veterinary hospitals at Muzaffarpur and Motihari. Inoculation of cattle was not much in demand on account of the absence of serious cattle-diseases and castration was carried on by the veterinary staff as usual. Stud bulls were maintained for the improvement of cattle breed in most of the districts and lectures on cattle-diseases and on the utility of veterinary services were delivered in fairs, *melas* and field dispensaries. Besides the award of scholarships to students at the Patna Veterinary College by the Monghyr and Darbhanga district boards, the Purnea, Bhagalpur and Singhbhum district boards made contributions for the improvement of cattle. The Purnea district board also awarded prizes in the cattle shows at Khagra, Gulabbagh and Dharamganj *melas*.

Civil Works.

There was a heavy increase of approximately Rs. 19,94 in the expenditure of the boards under this head; Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Purnea being the districts incurring substantially heavy expenses. The increase was mainly due to earthquake re-construction and the construction of new buildings, bridges and roads. The total mileage of metalled roads maintained by the boards increased from 2,302 to 2,378, that of unmetalled roads from 14,924 to 14,940 and that of village roads from 9,877 to 9,961. Most of the district boards incurred expenditure to improve the condition of inter-district communications and all except those of Patna, Monghyr and Purnea maintained railway feeder roads within their respective jurisdiction.

Water hyacinth.

The growth of this weed is not yet a matter of anxiety for this province as it is confined to a few spots only in some of the districts. Some stray cases of water hyacinth were found in Patna and Shahabad

districts where adequate steps for its eradication were taken. Similar steps were taken in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga and the Bhagalpur district board earmarked a sum for this purpose.

Local boards.

The number of local boards and their members remained the same (36 and 412 respectively) during the year. The Bhagalpur local board remained under supersession, along with the Bhagalpur district board, throughout the year and one co-opted lady member of the Monghyr local board resigned her seat and was succeeded by another. The prescribed number of 12 meetings in a year was not attained by a large number of local boards of the Patna and the Tirhut Divisions chiefly for the reason that there was no important business to be transacted. The average percentage of attendance of members at the meetings was 50 per cent, except in the local boards of Gaya Sadr and Nawadah. 4 meetings proved abortive for want of a quorum and an equal number of meetings were adjourned during the year. There was no change in the powers exercised by the local boards.

Union Committees.

The activities of the union committees have been confined to the maintenance of pounds, primary schools, village roads and to sanitary measures and conservancy arrangements within the area under their jurisdiction and their total number, together with the number of members, remained the same throughout the year. A few of these committees also maintained street lighting and brought about improvement in rural water-supply. Six of the union committees were re-constituted, twelve failed to convene the statutory number of 12 meetings in the year and one transferred the control of schools to the relative district board.

Union boards.

According to the Bihar and Orissa Village Administration Act of 1922 the further conversion of union committees into union boards was checked and since then the number of the latter has only been decreasing. During the year under review it stood at 135 as in the previous year and of this 9 union boards in the district of Patna were split up into 20 smaller ones.

The relations between the union boards and the Police and the Magistracy were generally cordial and subdivisional officers continued to accept the nominations of these boards for the appointment of chaukidars. The boards are competent to reward and punish the chaukidars for their services according to individual cases and to levy chaukidari tax for the maintenance of village

police. The assessment and collection of such tax during the year were generally fair and satisfactory. There were altogether 119 Panchayats in the province which were empowered to decide criminal as well as civil cases and though there is enough scope for improvement in this side of their work they disposed of petty cases speedily, a welcome sign. The contributions of district boards to the union boards were on the whole satisfactory and so was their collection of the union tax.

Municipalities.

There were altogether 56 municipalities in Bihar including notified area committees and the Patna Administration Committee against 55 in the previous year and their administration was not such as to enthuse over. The municipalities of Barh and Gaya in the Patna Division and Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Deoghar and Madhupur in the Bhagalpur Division were the only municipalities working under supersession during the year, the rest having been found competent and left alone to exercise a free hand in their administration. The total number of members in the municipalities was 829 of which 59 were *ex-officio*, 143 nominated and 627 elected. The number of Indian and European members was 798 and 31 respectively and there were 88 officials and 741 non-officials in all. Of the total number of 52 chairmen, 43 were elected and 3 nominated non-officials and 6 nominated officials. There was no improvement in the condition of the municipal administration as reported last year and party factions and personal jealousies continued to hamper civic progress. It was only in the Tirhut and Chota Nagpur Divisions that matters were comparatively satisfactory and Government were not compelled to take any drastic action. In most of the cases the state of accounts of the collection departments of the municipalities was not good and serious irregularities which generally lead to embezzlements were detected. Arrears were allowed to get time-barred and lapse. Several cases of misappropriation of money were detected in the Deoghar municipality, where attempts are still afoot to bring the offenders to book. In contrast with this depressing account of the administration of a number of municipalities, the municipalities of Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Chapra, Siwan, Chaibassa, Giridih, Colgong, Purnea, Kishanganj, Katihar and Forbesganj gave a good account of themselves by efficient administration.

Income and expenditure.

As compared with the previous year's figures, the total ordinary income of municipalities during the year under review fell from Rs. 40,64 to

Rs. 39,49 and the total receipts from Rs. 44,41 to Rs. 44,11. The income under the main heads of taxation decreased from Rs. 25,25 to Rs. 25,04. Government grants for general purposes decreased from Rs. 4,00 to Rs. 3,25 though those for educational and medical purposes rose from Rs. 1,75 to Rs. 2,03 and Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 respectively. The total grants and contributions from all sources for general and special purposes decreased from Rs. 6,26 to Rs. 6,22. On the expenditure side of the municipalities their ordinary expenditure rose from Rs. 41,91 to Rs. 46,30 and was most remarkable under the heads 'Public Health', ' Medical ' and ' Public Convenience '.

Education.

The total expenditure on education incurred by municipalities was Rs. 4,29 against Rs. 4,14 of which Rs. 3,55, or 13.07 per cent of their total ordinary income, was spent on primary education. Except in the Chota Nagpur Division, where the expenditure on education fell from Rs. 1,16 to Rs. 1,15, there was a general increase in all the divisions—in Patna from Rs. 1,23 to Rs. 1,33, in Tirhut from Rs. 1,05 to Rs. 1,07 and in Bhagalpur from Rs. 69 to Rs. 73.

Indoor administration.

During the year under review the municipal boards held a total number of 890 meetings against 1,015 in the preceding year. Of these 25 meetings proved abortive for want of quorum and 66 were adjourned. As in the previous years, while some municipalities met too often, others could not meet even 12 times, which was the minimum statutory number. Of the municipalities of the first category Darbhanga, Sasaram, Patna City, Hazaribagh, Samastipur, Arrah, Chapra, Ranchi, Bettiah, Katihar and Sahibganj deserve special mention, having met between 46 to 24 times, while in the second category Doranda, Jugsalai, Jamshedpur, amongst the notified area committees, and Daudnagar, Jagdishpur, Lalganj and Chakradharpur amongst the municipalities were the most prominent defaulters. Though the attendance of non-official members at the meetings of municipal boards was on the whole satisfactory the official members of these bodies were not very particular in attending meetings. Their percentage was the lowest (6.5) in the municipality of Jagdishpur.

Outdoor administration.

Expenditure increased under all heads of outdoor administration except under ' water-supply ' and ' water-works' where the expenditure on original works fell from Rs. 1,11 to Rs. 43. This fall was, however, due to the fact that the Monghyr municipality spent nothing under

this head during the year. Though the Patna City, Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur municipalities had to spend a lot on water-supply, the reconstruction of waterworks is overdue in the last named and has not yet commenced. The total expenditure on drainage rose from Rs. 3,84 to Rs. 4,71 and the increase was due mainly to the Patna City sewerage scheme which progressed much during the year. The Kadamkuan Nala, which was a great source of nuisance, was also made pucca and a few drains were constructed in the Bhagalpur municipality as well. But on the whole the drainage schemes of most of the municipalities need considerable improvement. The cost of conservancy during the year rose from Rs. 10,48 to Rs. 10,81.

CHAPTER V.

Education.

General.

The year was one of progress in the sphere of educational activity. The problem of combating the ignorance of the people remains a big and vital problem when it is realised that in a population of about three and a quarter crores the percentage of those who attend educational institutions for the sake of learning is only 3.11 in every hundred. Though this literacy percentage constitutes an advance over the position five years ago when the total number of literates in Bihar was only 2.75 per cent of the total population, much lee-way has yet to be made.

The number of male scholars in Bihar was 5.47 in every hundred of the male population and of female scholars only .74 in every hundred of the female population during the year under review. The total number of educational institutions decreased by 278, but the number of scholars increased by 11,055. There were 20,162 recognised institutions for the education of males and 2,091 for the education of females throughout the province besides 2,086 unrecognised institutions. Of the latter 1,895 were exclusively for males and 191 exclusively for females. The number of male scholars increased by 15,346 while that of the female scholars increased by 1,079. The total expenditure on education rose to Rs. 1,67,96,825. Of this 50.3 per cent was met by Government, 12.4 from local funds, 23.7 from fees and 13.6 from other sources. The average cost per scholar was Rs. 17-12-10.

Primary education.

In the programme of education, primary education takes a prominent place, as it should, and recently the Education Department of Government has devoted much attention to it. The number of primary schools of all denominations was 20,790, while that of their pupils was 758,231 during the year. 18,394 trained teachers were employed in the primary schools throughout the province and the direct expenditure incurred exclusively over these schools was Rs. 49,04,881. The improvement is mainly due to a special diploma course provided at the Patna Training College for turning out technically better qualified men for supervising and imparting primary education in the new and improved spirit. The new syllabus of primary education, which is designed to make the school-life of the child more interesting and varied than before and which was actually introduced in the year 1935, was found satisfactory though a good deal of prejudice still prevails against it. Classes I and II of the lower primary schools and class IV of

the upper primary schools got started on this syllabus and an infant class was added to the previously existing three classes of the lower primary schools. This introduced a change of great importance for primary education inasmuch as it involved the extension of the lower primary and upper primary courses from three and five years to four and six years respectively. This was in line with the recommendations of the Hartog Committee which considered a four years' course to be the minimum for lasting literacy.

In order to establish a closer contact between the boys of the two major communities, Hindus and Moslems, it has been decided to encourage common schools for both the communities where a common language is spoken, and teachers have been instructed to use as their medium of instruction a vernacular equally intelligible to both Hindus and Muhammadans and attempts are being made to approve only such books for use in primary schools as are, though printed in the *Nagri* and the *Urdu* scripts separately, written in the same language, so far as possible.

Attempts are also being made to encourage co-education of girls and boys and of the caste Hindus and the Harijans. While it has been left to the local bodies to decide on the course to be adopted regarding separate girls' schools, co-education has been re-affirmed as the best solution of the problem of the early education of girls. At a place where a considerable Harijan population is concentrated the local bodies are required to provide more adequate facilities for the education of the Harijans in the form of special schools as a temporary measure and gradually to encourage and adopt a general policy of free admission of Harijan boys in the ordinary schools. As a stimulus to the attendance of girls at boys' schools and of Harijan students at the ordinary village schools the teachers are to be allowed capitation allowances on account of all such pupils under their charge.

Amongst other steps taken to improve primary education in villages and to make it more suitable to the needs of the people, age limits and the last date of admission to the primary schools have been prescribed, holidays have been regulated, proper inspecting facilities have been provided and an admission fee has been levied on new pupils, which may however be returned to them after they have completed their full course, in order to stop the waste of efforts entailed by children who join school for a year or two and then leave before they have attained literacy. At present no child under the age of five is ordinarily admitted to a primary school and, after January 1st, 1940, no boy over eight years of age

will be admitted to the infant class, over nine years of age to class I, over ten years of age to class II and over eleven years of age to class III in the primary schools of villages where there are no separate girls' schools. This will enable the schools to become mixed schools for boys and girls.

There was a fall in the number of pupils by 6,737 during the year But the cause of this decrease is not to be sought in the reduction in the number of schools but elsewhere. There is a point beyond which the multiplication of schools does not necessarily lead to an increase in the number of pupils, and there is a point where the reduction in the number of schools does not imply fewer pupils. The number of upper primary schools for boys during the year under review was 2,936, while that of the lower primary schools was 15,823. Of all these primary schools the number of Urdu primary schools for boys was 2,330 and that of Sanskrit primary schools only 732, while the rest were ordinary primary schools. It is gratifying to note that the number of upper primary schools, which serve as an effective means of securing permanent literacy, showed an increase of 532 during the last five years. So far as the proportion of pupils in the different classes of the primary schools in the province is concerned, the following table should be helpful in giving an idea of the actual position during the last five years.

Class.	Number of Indian boys in—				
	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Infant class	..	..	220,413	229,753	223,048
I ..	354,980	347,116	146,887	146,765	147,309
II ..	134,828	139,475	138,280	127,406	127,762
III ..	101,373	105,519	108,663	108,837	105,296
IV ..	48,412	51,948	57,268	60,702	62,085
V ..	37,354	39,288	42,729	46,695	49,788
Total ..	676,947	683,346	714,240	720,158	715,288

Government gave Rs. 26,13,595 to district boards and Rs. 1,69,680 to municipalities as recurring grants during the year under review. The actual payment of prescribed salaries to gurus being made a condition precedent for the payment of the full Government grants to the boards, all the boards were able to complete the payments during the year except three. The table below gives the comparative figures for the average pay of teachers in primary schools during the year under review and as five years back.

Kind of employment.	Number of teachers in 1936-37.	Monthly pay in 1936-37.	Average monthly pay in 1936-37.	Average monthly pay in 1931-32.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Board schools ...	7,251	83,872	11·6	11·1
Municipal schools	1,126	19,527	17·3	16·9
Privately managed schools.	22,111	2,01,024	9·09	9·2
Total ...	30,488	3,04,423	9·98	9·8

Efforts have not been wanting to effect such improvements as are possible in the administration of primary education. The revival of the post of the Special Officer has been fruitful of results. There has been much better consolidation of the ground than before on the academic and the organisational side. A reorientation of the outlook on primary education has been brought about. Bihar being essentially an agricultural province, it has been suggested to Government that the rural areas must have their ' men on the spot ' for the administration of primary education and to look after and settle their educational affairs more promptly, efficiently and expeditiously than is possible now. Such a machinery may be secured by setting up *ad hoc* educational boards at subdivisional and district headquarters, which will act as co-ordinating agencies for the smaller local educational boards working, as far as possible, without interference in the rural areas. These boards with representatives of the existing local bodies and the nominees of Government in them would devote their whole

time to education. Another suggestion is that village school committees, like the school boards which were set up in England when education was made compulsory, might be created and be made responsible at least of erecting and maintaining school-houses in their areas. Such committees with statutory powers should be of great help to the administration of primary education in the country. Time may only show if, as in England, public opinion will favour the idea of also arming these committees with powers to levy an education cess, without which it is difficult to see how the funds for the further expansion and improvement of primary education can be provided.

Compulsory primary education for boys was in force in the Ranchi municipality and the Gopalganj and Maharajgunj unions in Saran and in the Jamhore union in Gaya. While in the last and the first the system still continues and like the rest it is also free in the last, the experiments in the remaining two proved a failure and were terminated. In the districts of Saran and Ranchi primary education is entirely free. Though the municipalities of Samastipur and Daltonganj also tried to follow in the foot-steps of these two districts they failed. While the experiment worked satisfactorily in Ranchi with the percentage of attendance being 92.54 during the year, Saran, where there is a great demand for popular education, carried on with the scheme though not under very satisfactory conditions.

Night schools, which cater largely for the education of adults in rural areas, did not flourish well during the year for want of popular support. Their number fell from 175 with 4,078 pupils to 122 with 3,150 pupils during the last five years. The number of school post offices (where one person combined the dual function of sub-postmaster and teacher) also declined from 187 to 161 during the last five years.

Secondary education.

The system of secondary education in the province is not represented by a single well-marked type of school providing instruction from one clearly defined stage to another and therefore needs a little explanation. It embraces high schools, middle English schools and middle vernacular schools, the difference between the last two being that English is taught in the one and not taught in the other. In addition, it also includes such European schools as impart secondary education.

The total number of secondary schools of all classes in Bihar for Indian as well as European boys and girls rose from 949 in 1935-36 to 984 in 1936-37 and the number on their rolls from 150,909 to 161,449. In fact, when one considers the secondary education for Indian boys alone, the number of high and other secondary schools as also the number of boys attending them exceeds all the relative previous figures since the separation of the province from Bengal. Only during the last five years the high schools have increased at the rate of 10 a year and their pupils at the rate of 2,840 a year, a too rapid increase in the opinion of many who wish to multiply vocational institutions rather than the purely literary ones. And as was but natural, side by side with this increase in the number of schools and pupils the direct expenditure on these institutions also rose from Rs. 42,76,175 to Rs. 45,39,862 during the year under review.

In 1936-37 as many as 11 new high schools were recognised at Mairwa, Samastipur, Sheohar, Barbigha, Shaikhpura, Nathnagar, Colgong, Barsoe, Bhagalpur, Ranchi and Palamau. The authority which accords recognition to and exercises control over high schools and intermediate classes attached to high schools is the Board of Secondary Education composed of officials and non-officials. The academic control so far as the course of study and text-books are concerned is exercised by the University over the high schools through its matriculation examination.

The number of high schools aided by the Board and the allotment placed at its disposal in 1936-37 was 103 and Rs. 2,79,408, respectively and the average pay of a teacher in a privately managed secondary school was Rs. 41.9. This rise in pay, which is appreciable, is due to the introduction of the incremental scale of pay in a number of aided schools and to the employment of more trained teachers who are entitled to a higher pay than untrained ones. Government maintained 18 high schools to set the standard and to serve as models for other schools. Besides the high schools, there were 4 middle English schools managed by Government.

Co-education in the secondary schools showed rapid progress. During the last five years the number of girls attending high schools for Indian boys rose from 3 to 136, those attending middle English schools from 306 to 1,132, and those attending middle Vernacular schools from 71 to 232. It is interesting to note that even where separate girls' schools exist many girls are now being sent to the boys' secondary schools by their guardians.

Vocational training.

The range of instruction in high schools continued to be widened and subjects like manual training, domestic science and the science of music, that were added to the list of subjects to be taught in these schools, grew more and more popular. The manual training class at Buxar, the music classes at Bhagalpur and Patna, and the agricultural classes at Bikram continued to do good work. In all, there were manual training classes in 11 high schools, elementary physics and chemistry classes in 12, commerce classes in 3 and Botany classes in one; and 18 high schools employed trained drawing masters. Although money was provided in the budget for 1936-37 for opening vocational classes in more middle English schools, it was not found possible to utilise the sum and open new classes during the year. Training of industrial and vocational subjects in the middle schools was thus confined only to the older institutions mentioned in the previous reports which, however, continued to make satisfactory progress.

University and collegiate education.

Excepting for a few days in March 1937, when the Chancellorship of the Patna University devolved upon His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett, His Excellency Sir James Sifton continued to be the Chancellor throughout the year under review. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha, Bar.-at-Law, took over charge of the Vice-Chancellorship from Mr. Justice Khawaja Muhammad Noor from the last week of August 1936, and continued to guide the activities of the University. The University continued to hold its federal character and to rank among the modern universities of the country. The separation of Orissa has not affected the constitution of the University for the reason that the schools and colleges of the former still remain affiliated to it, the new province of Orissa not having a separate University of its own. The total number of arts, science and professional colleges teaching up to the degree standard under the University, therefore, remained stationary. Besides the two intermediate colleges at Monghyr and Biharsharif, intermediate classes added to the Ranchi Zila school continued to impart higher education. The number of students in the colleges aggregated to 5,267 during the year 1937. The Governments of Bihar and Orissa gave grants of Rs. 17,200 and Rs. 2,000 respectively to meet the cost of the establishment of the University during the year under review and the total income and expenditure of the University during the year amounted to Rs. 4,03,476 and Rs. 2,70, 019 respectively. The reserve funds of the University stood at Rs. 1,20,800 representing the face value of 3½ per cent Government paper on the 31st March 1937.

The direct expenditure on the colleges increased from Rs. 10,44,951 to Rs. 10,51,347.

The professional colleges in Bihar, namely, the Patna Law College, the Patna Training College, the Prince of Wales Medical College, the Bihar College of Engineering and the Bihar Veterinary College, continued to do good work.

Oriental studies.

Sanskrit and Islamic studies continued to progress during the year. The number of recognised Sanskrit *tols* in the province of Bihar rose from 281 in 1935-36 to 292 in 1936-37 and that of their students from 9,459 to 10,341. Similarly the number of pupils in the recognised Sanskrit primary schools rose from 20,965 to 21,360 though their own number was reduced by 10 (i.e., from 744 to 734) due to various reasons. The unrecognised Sanskrit *tols* and primary schools also decreased in number and during the year there were only 10 institutions of the former type and 64 of the latter type with 337 and 1,405 pupils respectively.

Though the number of recognised *madrasas* decreased to 39, the number of unrecognised *madrasas* rose to 59 and the number of pupils in both increased by leaps and bounds. The number of pupils in the former type of institutions in Bihar was 3,151, while that in the latter type was 2,993, showing steady progress in respect of Islamic education.

The Madrasa Islamia Shamsul Huda at Patna is the only *Madrasa* managed by Government and the Dharma Samaj Sanskrit College at Muzaffarpur the only Sanskrit *tol*.

Technical education.

There were altogether 56 technical, trade and vocational schools in Bihar with 3,470 pupils on their rolls and a direct expenditure of Rs. 6,43,100.

Training of masters.

The institutions for training masters included the Training College at Patna, 4 secondary training schools, one each at the headquarters station of a division and under the direct management of Government and 55 elementary training schools. The number of students in the secondary training schools was 235 and in the elementary training schools was 1,077 during the year. A good deal of improvement was effected in the standard of work in the elementary training schools by the revision of the whole syllabus of instruction.

Besides the elementary training schools maintained by Government, there are two aided schools in Chota Nagpur Division and one un-aided school in the Santal Parganas, all the three schools being specially intended for aboriginal students. The total direct

expenditure on all the schools, secondary as well as elementary, whether maintained or aided by Government, was Rs. 2,12,785, of which Rs. 2,06,690 was from Government funds.

Female education.

The progress achieved in the sphere of female education was slow but steady. The total number of Indian girls under instruction in all classes of institutions in Bihar rose from 118,159 in 1935-36 to 118,515 in 1936-37. There were as many as 2,271 schools specially for Indian girls in addition to the mixed schools and colleges. Not only the numerical strength of the girls' schools increased appreciably but the number of girls reading in institutions for boys also rose very substantially. It is the latter phenomenon which has really been responsible for the continued rapid expansion of girls' education in Bihar and the number of girls in boys' institutions was found to have shot up to 50,875 during the year. The calculated gain to the education of females by co-education was 50 per cent in the primary schools, by about 400 per cent in the secondary schools and 32 times as much at the collegiate stage. The direct expenditure on recognised schools for girls increased to Rs. 7,89,105 in Bihar.

At present there are eight recognised high schools for girls and three middle English schools have been permitted to open two or three high school classes. The number of middle English schools for girls on the recognised list was 27 and that of middle Vernacular schools for girls 9, the number of pupils on their rolls running to 5,299 and 883 respectively. The number of girls reading in boys' middle English schools was 1,132 and in middle Vernacular schools 232. In the districts of this province, excluding Muzaffarpur, there are now 710 male teachers as against 686 women teachers in single-teacher schools for girls as a consequence of gradual womanisation of the teaching staff of such schools. The total number of single-teacher primary schools for girls was 1,724 and of their pupils 38,561 during the year. This means that nearly 90 per cent of the girls' primary schools are single-teacher schools and nearly 70 per cent of the girls at the primary stage are in such schools.

There are now eight junior training classes and one senior training class for women teachers as previously of which three are managed and the remaining six aided by Government. The six aided training classes are all managed by missions and three of them are in rural centres. Those managed by Government are located in important towns, but the majority of students come from the surrounding rural areas. The number of women under training increased to 234 in 1936-37.

The number of technical, industrial and agricultural schools for girls remained stationary at 9 for the last few years but the number of their pupils considerably increased. During the year there were 595 pupils in such schools and the weaving section of the technical class at Noatoli made good progress. Zenana education is still carried on by peripatetic teachers and by central gathering classes, the latter including certain classes for Muhammadan women, of which the teachers are termed *atus*. During the year under review the number of these schools was 49 and that of their pupils 1,273.

Besides the award of numerous scholarships to girl students, the Government order exempting girls from the levy of fees in primary schools and prescribing a lower scale of fees for those reading in middle English schools served as great encouragement to female education.

Bihar Council of Women.

The activities of the Bihar Council of Women were guided throughout the year 1936-37 by Lady Sifton as its president who was, later in March, succeeded by Lady Hallett. The Council continued to render excellent service in the cause of women and social improvement. Government and other bodies, like the League of Nations, continued to consult the Council on important questions affecting women. The Patna Deaf and Dumb school was affiliated to the Council during the year. Good progress was recorded in the various branches of the Council's work.

Education of Europeans.

The number of schools for Anglo-Indians and Europeans during the year under review was 17 comprising 4 secondary and 13 elementary schools. The number of pupils was 1,291, of whom 602 were boys and 689 girls. The total expenditure on these schools was Rs. 3,24,747, or Rs. 4,338 more than in the previous year, of which Rs. 2,14,680 was direct expenditure.

Education of Muhammadans.

According to the census of 1931, though the Muhammadans form 12.79 per cent of the total population of Bihar, they still remained ahead of the general level of instruction of the province considering all its stages. In the year 1936-37, of a total number of 1,006,117 scholars in the province 150,417 or 15.0 per cent were Muhammadans. For the higher stages of instruction the percentage was 12.2 in colleges, 13.7 in high schools and 10.9 in middle schools. There were 349 middle schools and 478 upper primary schools in which increased facilities were provided for teaching through the medium of Urdu. The

number of recognised Madrasas, as pointed out already, was 39, while that of the recognised primary Urdu schools 2,874. A variety of unrecognised institutions, with a syllabus of their own, were existent and numbered 323. The number of elementary training schools for Muhammadans remained 11 as before.

The special inspecting staff for Muhammadan education consisted of 1 Superintendent of Islamic Studies, 4 special inspecting officers, 23 inspecting Maulvis and 1 Lady Superintendent of Muhammadan *atus*. No less than Rs. 5,82,720 or Rs. 38,432 more than in the previous year was spent from public funds specially for the benefit of the Muhammadan pupils of the province.

Education of aborigines.

The instruction of aborigines received special attention of Government and there were 36,560 Christian and 46,173 non-Christian aborigines receiving education in various educational institutions. Of these 14,564 were females. There was one elementary training school for aboriginal men at Taljheri maintained by Government and two aided and one unaided training schools at Ranchi and Kairabari respectively. The number of special schools for aborigines in the Tirhut Division was 17. There were two senior and seven junior scholarships and ten special free-studentships reserved in the colleges for aboriginal students. In the year 1936-37 pupils of this class won two college scholarships and seven middle, seven upper primary and 53 lower primary scholarships.

Education of Harijans.

There were 41,487 male and 2,096 female children of Harijans at school during the year under review. That is to say, the proportion of boys of Harijans at school to their total male population was 1.7 per cent and that of girls to their total female population was .08 per cent during the year. The number of Harijan students in the collegiate stage rose from 5 to 10, in high schools from 291 to 430 and in middle schools from 926 to 1,197 though in the primary stage their education received a set-back due to economic reasons. One college, two middle, two upper primary and two lower primary scholarships were won by Harijan students and the expenditure specially earmarked for and incurred on their education, in addition to such expenditure for their education as is incurred in ordinary schools, was Rs. 23,800.

Education of criminal tribes.

The members of criminal tribes, including both males and females, numbered 5,495 in 1936-37, of whom 255 were at school. Of these none was in the high stage, 10 were in the middle stage

and 125 in the primary stage, 1 in a special school and 119 in unrecognised schools. There were 7 schools specially intended for these pupils, one in Tirhut, four in Bhagalpur and two in Chota Nagpur.

Factory schools.

The total number of factory schools was 70 and that of their pupils 3,520. The former consisted of 59 colliery schools, 10 night schools and 1 mining school and the number of such pupils in them, who were either employees or children of employees, was 2,472, including 208 girls. The total expenditure on the factory schools was Rs. 28,888.

Education of defectives.

The number of pupils at the Ranchi and Patna Blind schools was 64 and 32 respectively. Government contributed Rs. 3,108 to the former and Rs. 1,902 to the latter. A school for deaf-mutes was started in Patna during the year with 7 pupils on the roll and later received a Government grant of Rs. 100. Besides this pupils were also maintained at the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School by Government and the district boards of Shahabad and Monghyr. The school attached to the Leper Asylum at Purulia is the only school of its kind in the province. The total expenditure on it was Rs. 3,456 during the year of which Rs. 720 came from Government.

Hazaribagh Reformatory School.

The Hazaribagh Reformatory school is a joint institution for Bihar, Bengal, Assam and Orissa and is in charge of a Superintendent under the control and direction of a committee of visitors. It had on its roll 225 boys, against 205 during the previous year, of whom 132 were from Bihar, 73 from Bengal, 10 from Assam and 10 from Orissa. The gross expenditure on the school was Rs. 81,533, of which Rs. 78,267 was from provincial revenues. The number of boys under surveillance fell from 87 to 73, of whom 63 were reported to be leading honest lives, 2 were reconvicted, 1 died and 7 remained untraced. On the completion of the prescribed period 45 ex-pupils of the school were discharged from surveillance during the year.

Unrecognized institutions.

The number of unrecognised schools rose from 1,906 in 1935-36 to 2,086 in 1936-37 with an increase in the number of their pupils from 57,826 to 63,945. The number of national schools was 20 with 1,251 pupils on 31st March, 1937. There had also sprung up a new class of unrecognised schools or coaching classes which prepared students for the matriculation examination of Patna, Calcutta and Benares Universities and then presented them as private candidates.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. G. E. Fawcus, the permanent Director of Instruction having gone on leave preparatory to retirement, Mr. F. R. Blair was appointed to act in his place from the 20th July, 1936, and continued throughout the year. The Reformatory school at Hazaribagh and the European schools continued to form the " reserved " items of education for the last time and a sum of Rs. 1,42,905 was spent on them by Government. The proportion of expenditure on education to the total expenditure of Government in all departments from provincial revenues during the year was 17.96 per cent against 17.6 per cent in 1931-32. The proportion of expenditure on direction and inspection together from public funds to the total expenditure on education from the same source was 8.18 per cent in 1936-37 and the total strength of the inspecting staff 293. The various Missions in the province maintained 753 educational institutions for males and 104 for females at a cost of Rs. 3,21,712 from their own funds excluding extraneous help.

The total number of hostels in Bihar was 541 with 20,152 boarders in 1936-37, of which 9 hostels at Patna were under the direct management of the Students' Residence Committee. First aid lectures continued to be given in Government high schools and secondary training schools and the junior Red Cross organisation was introduced in some of them. An important extra-curricular activity in all classes of schools in the province was scouting and the number of Boy Scouts, Wolf Cubs and Rover Scouts in September 1937 was about 8,500.

Conclusion.

Surveying the whole field of education in Bihar one is led to the conclusion that the progress achieved has been considerable almost in every sphere and that with the employment of more and more trained teachers in private secondary schools the condition will still improve. What is required is not merely a much larger provision of funds for the extension of primary education and the consolidation of higher education, but a remodelling and reconstruction of the whole educational structure to suit the needs and the genius of the people. The year saw the beginning of a new political era in which the electorate has been considerably widened and literacy for the masses as well as intellectual leadership of the directing classes are regarded as essential factors of national welfare. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the educational progress maintained so far will not only be accelerated in the years to come but also a new tone and meaning will be given to education as a whole.

CHAPTER VI.

Public Health and Medical Relief.

Vital statistics.

In 1936-37 the general health of the province on the whole was better than that in the previous year. The total number of births rose from 1,108,571 in the previous year to 1,144,008 in the year under review, while the number of deaths decreased from 786,710 to 701,814. The excess of birth over the death rate was 13.6 as compared with 10.3 in the previous year. This excess of birth over the death rate, however, received a setback due to an increased rate of infant mortality which rose from 116.6 per thousand in 1935 to 118.0 per thousand in 1936. The only effective means that can be employed to reduce child mortality are by organising maternity and child welfare work both in the urban and rural areas and Government have drawn the attention of the local bodies to the importance of this work.

The highest birth rate (45.8) was recorded in the Gaya district and the lowest (23.6) in Singhbhum. The mean birth rate for the rural areas was 35.9 per mille and for the urban areas 22.5. As regards deaths, the district of Palamau continued to be the most fatal with a death rate of 26.0 per mille, whereas the promise of a long life was held out by Manbhum with only 18.0. The mean death rate for the rural areas was 22.0 per mille and for the urban areas 13.7.

An attempt has been made in recent years to transfer the responsibility of collection, tabulation and verification of vital occurrences to the bigger municipalities through their health staff instead of through the agency of the chaukidar, and this change has contributed to the collation of more reliable statistics than was the case before.

The following table gives the comparative incidence of the chief diseases :—

	Urban.		Rural.		Combined.		
	Ten years' average.	1936.	Ten years' average.	1936.	Ten years' average.	1936.	1936-37.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cholera	0·9	0·1	1·6	0·2	1·6	0·2	0·2
Small-pox ..	0·6	0·7	0·5	0·7	0·5	0·7	0·6
Plague	0·08	0·1	0·2	0·03	0·2	0·04	0·04
Fevers	7·1	5·5	17·2	17·4	16·8	16·9	17·3
Dysentery and Diarrhœa.	0·6	0·5	0·1	0·08	0·1	0·1	0·1
Respiratory diseases..	0·5	0·6	0·07	0·07	0·09	0·1	0·09
Injuries	0·5	0·5	0·3	0·3	0·3	0·3	0·3
All other causes ..	4·4	4·7	3·4	3·2	3·5	3·3	3·2
Total ..	14·7	13·7	23·4	22·0	23·0	21·7	21·8

Cholera.

On the whole, the year under review was a mild one for cholera, and the total number of deaths from this disease fell from 57,136 to 6,070 and the corresponding death rate from 1.8 to 0.2. The districts which suffered most were Manbhum, Santal Parganas, Shahabad and Hazaribagh.

With the growth of public health organisations in the districts the province is fairly well equipped to deal with the outbreak of the disease as soon as it occurs. Ten district boards continued to maintain health officers with the necessary complement of subordinate staff and there were, as usual, fewer demands from these districts for Government epidemic doctors to combat cholera. But wherever the disease became widespread and it was considered necessary to supplement the district board health staff, Government epidemic doctors were detailed. During the year no fewer than 28 such epidemic doctors were sent out on cholera duty.

Besides the usual distribution of disinfectants and cholera vaccine by the Public Health Department, an extensive use was made of choleraphage whose curative value has come to be recognised in the treatment of cholera cases. No fewer than 81,106 phials of choleraphage were distributed throughout the cholera infected areas and this extensive use of choleraphage has had the effect of remarkably reducing the cholera mortality. To demonstrate the possibility of using phage as prophylactic in place of cholera vaccine, interesting experiments are being made.

Small-pox.

Small-pox was responsible for 22,863 deaths against 17,433 in the previous year, the corresponding death rate rising from 0.5 to 0.7. The lower death rate in 1935 is attributed to the immunity caused by extensive vaccinations and re-vaccinations carried out during the year 1933, when a small-pox epidemic broke out in the province. As usual the rural areas suffered more than the urban areas and the highest death rate was registered in the districts of Purnea and Shahabad, whereas the districts of Ranchi, Champaran and Muzaffarpur recorded the lowest death rate. The towns of Roserah, Chaibassa and Jamalpur reported highest death rates. Primary vaccination is compulsory in all the municipal towns of the province and also in rural areas in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Champaran, Darbhanga, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Hazaribagh.

In pursuance of a policy of decentralisation, the control of vaccination has now been transferred to local bodies in the districts in which health organisation schemes are working, and the Government vaccination inspecting staff has been withdrawn therefrom. In these districts the Health Officers have been appointed Superintendents of vaccination though the Civil Surgeons still exercise the powers of Superintendents of vaccination in the remaining few. In order to ensure efficiency of supervision, Government have also appointed three Special Vaccination Inspectors to work under each of the Assistant Directors of Public Health. It is expected that in the near future all the districts of the province will take over direct control of this important public health measure.

The vaccine lymph manufactured at the Vaccine Depot, Namkum, is supplied throughout the province free of cost. 1,586,143 vaccination operations were performed in the province during the year under review. Of these 962,120 primary vaccinations and 188,196 re-vaccinations were successful. If the incidence of the disease is to be checked, vaccination and re-vaccination should be made compulsory throughout the province.

Plague.

Plague took a smaller toll during the year. The total number of deaths from the disease decreased from 2,861 to 1,245. The death rate was 0.04 per mille as compared with 0.09 in the previous year. The disease remained confined to certain endemic areas in the districts of Saran, Muzaffarpur, Champaran and Darbhanga, the first named district registering the highest number of deaths. The town of Bettiah was the worst sufferer and was in the grip of the disease for most part of the year. The question of devising means for stamping out the disease from the town is engaging the attention of Government. Necessary preventive measures were taken by the Public Health Department and Government deputed doctors on plague duty to the affected areas. 20,472 and 3,780 anti-plague inoculations were performed in the districts of Saran and Muzaffarpur respectively.

Dysentery and diarrhoea.

There were 3,118 deaths from this group of disease as against 4,044 in the previous year and the mortality rate remained 0.1. The highest death rates were recorded in the towns of Lalganj (1.6), Jamalpur (1.5) and Barh (1.3).

Dropsy.

Cases of epidemic dropsy or beri-beri were reported from the districts of Patna, Bhagalpur, Manbhum and Singhbhum. A report on epidemic dropsy in the Manbhum district was received from the Director of the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, who attributed the disease to the use of polished rice. Further investigation on the subject is being carried on. Steps were taken to instruct people to avoid the use of polished rice and adulterated mustard oil and *ghee*.

Malaria and other fevers.

Fever is undoubtedly the principal cause of mortality in the province. While Purnea has had a long history of malaria, conditions have been bad of late in Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur in the Tirhut Division and Bhagalpur in the Bhagalpur Division. The total number of deaths from fevers during the year 1936-37 was 560,260, bringing down the death rate from 17.8 to 17.3 as compared to that of the preceding year. The highest death rates were recorded in the districts of Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Palamau and the towns most notorious for fevers were Lohardaga, Gaya and Jhalda. Malaria of a more or less static character remains prevalent throughout the province and its intensity depends

mostly on local conditions and variations in the epidemiological factors from year to year. The tracts liable to be malarious are generally the long belt in North Bihar lying contiguous to Nepal, villages in the neighbourhood of Hills and Ghats in Shahabad and Gaya districts and patches adjacent to some of the hill ranges of the Chota Nagpur plateau. In the latter part of the country 'aggregation of labour' also produces malarious conditions, specially in the mining areas. In North Bihar the outbreak of malaria in an epidemic form is definitely confined to the spill areas of those rivers which change their course too often. Thus the villages situated in the spill areas of the Bagmati, the Puranidhar and the Burhi Gandak in the district of Muzaffarpur, and the Kamla and the Balan in the district of Darbhanga were the worst sufferers. The total number of patients treated for malaria in hospitals, dispensaries and temporary clinics and centres was 1,809,791. All possible measures were taken to combat the disease by deputing temporary doctors in the affected areas and distribution of quinine free of cost. The increased incidence of the disease calls for well-planned and systematic measures, and towards this end a more permanent method of tackling the problem on an intensive scale has been worked out and is expected to be applied in the badly affected districts in turn.

Kala-azar.

The disease was most prevalent in the districts of Saran, Muzaffarpur and Purnea and in all 68,252 patients were treated for it in hospitals and dispensaries of the province. Of these only 237 patients died. Government increased their grant from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 for the relief of kala-azar patients.

Tuberculosis.

The number of persons treated for tuberculosis of the lungs in hospitals and dispensaries of the province, excluding the Itki Sanatorium, was 20,631, during the year as against 17,490 in the previous year and the number of deaths was 204 as against 222. The districts reporting the largest number of cases were Patna, Saran and Monghyr. A scheme for organising the treatment of tuberculosis throughout the province has been considered and a committee has been formed under the auspices of the King George V Memorial Fund Association to work it out. The scheme aims at opening tuberculosis clinics at the headquarters of all the districts in the province.

Leprosy.

Sixty-three out-door leprosy clinics functioned during the year as against 59 in the previous year and 20,611 patients against 17,813 were treated in them. There are at present 5 Leper Asylums and 1 Leper

Colony in the province with a total accommodation for 1,851 persons. The number of leper residents in them was 2,104 as against 1,844 in the previous year but the number of out-door patients treated in them fell from 4,625 to 3,491. Rs. 1,59,082 were spent on the maintenance of these hospitals during the year.

Health propaganda and special measures.

The Public Health Bureau continued to perform its useful function of awakening public health conscience in the masses by disseminating knowledge about questions relating to hygiene and public health through distribution of pamphlets and leaflets to local bodies and through them at fairs and festivals. Popular articles on such matters were also contributed to the local press by the Bureau. The Assistant Directors of Public Health gave 344 short lectures on sanitation and hygiene during their vaccination inspections in rural areas with the help of magic lanterns. The Red Cross Health Museum, housed in the Patna Museum, attracted 132,781 visitors during the year. Preventive measures against infectious diseases have been facilitated by the enforcement of the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Amendment Act, 1935, which provides for the compulsory notification and reporting of cases suffering from infectious diseases throughout the municipalities of the province.

The municipalities of Gaya, Patna, Ranchi, Bhagalpur and Darbhanga continued to employ full time health officers but others were not able to do so owing to financial difficulties. The district boards are, however, more advanced in this respect and 10 of them have their own health organisations.

School hygiene.

In Bihar there are 4 School Medical Officers (one each for every Division) and 4 Assistant School Medical Officers, besides a Lady School Medical Officer for the girls' schools, who examine the scholars of the high English schools and also of such middle English schools which co-exist in the same area. At places where there are no high English schools, medical examinations of students of the middle English schools are carried out by the District Board Medical Officers wherever such officers exist. Out of 9,576 boys and 485 girls examined as many as 4,140 boys and 419 girls were found to be defective or diseased. The majority of the students suffered from enlarged tonsils, scabies and malnutrition. The co-operation of the parents or guardians was sought in effecting improvement in the health of the students. A scheme for providing mid-day school lunch on a monthly fee of annas six per

student has been introduced in some of the schools of Chota Nagpur Division, and this is regarded as a step in the right direction worthy of emulation by other schools in the province.

Public Health Laboratory.

During the year 3,035 articles were examined chemically and bacteriologically against 2,847 in the preceding year. Of these 15 samples were received from private individuals or firms for analysis on payment of fees. The increase in the number of samples analysed is attributable to the growing realisation of the importance of the Food Adulteration Act by local bodies and such examination reveals the existence of widespread adulteration. Of 782 samples of *ghee* examined, 45.14 per cent were found below the standard or adulterated and 132 samples were found to be of doubtful purity; of 627 samples of mustard oil examined 40.35 per cent were found to be adulterated and 4 of doubtful purity; and of 131 samples of sweets and 91 of milk examined 49.61 per cent of the former and 63.73 per cent of the latter were not genuine. Prosecutions continued to be launched throughout the province for offences against the Food Adulteration Act.

Water supply and drainage.

The Public Health (Engineering) Circle continued to execute and look after water-supply, drainage and sewerage projects throughout the province. Of all the projects prepared and submitted to Government in 1936-37 perhaps the most important one was that for the improvement of the Shiva Ganga Tank at an estimated cost of Rs. 32,500 at Deoghar, one of the famous places of pilgrimage. But it was not possible to take up the work during the year. Of the works in progress the water-supply and sewerage arrangements made at the Itki Sanatorium since the construction of the 31 new wards, the Patna main drainage scheme, the Patna University and the Bihar College of Engineering sewerage schemes, the Monghyr water-supply scheme, the Lautaha (Motihari) water-supply and drainage scheme, and the Bhabua, Daltonganj and Sonepur waterworks schemes deserve special mention.

Jharia Mines Board of Health.

The Jharia Mines Board of Health controls the sanitation of Jharia and the neighbouring mining fields, which extend over an area of 787 square miles and cover the whole of the Dhanbad subdivision with the exception of the Dhanbad Municipality, and serves a population of well over half a million persons. During the year seven more collieries were connected to the Jharia Water Board Mains, bringing the total number of connected collieries to 185. The Board served notices on six more collieries to link

up with the Mains because it was thought necessary to do so in the interest of the other collieries. A drainage scheme has been completed and is now in perfect running order. A five-year housing programme was enforced and the improvements made in this direction during the past two years were not allowed to deteriorate. The work in connection with maternity and child welfare scheme was continued as usual. Three qualified health visitors remained in charge of this work. The Board also continued to maintain its three leprosy clinics, one each at Jharia, Katras and Dhanbad, where treatment was given twice a week.

Medical Institutions.

The number of hospitals and dispensaries in the combined province of Bihar and Orissa, before the separation, was 690 but, since 104 out of them had to be transferred to the newly created province, only 586 hospitals and dispensaries were left in Bihar during the year 1936-37. Though there were 5 new dispensaries which were opened during the year under review in the province the total number of these institutions was not affected on account of the fact that 5 old dispensaries had to be closed down. Two railway dispensaries were transferred to the category of private non-aided medical institutions and one of the subsidised dispensaries came to be managed by local municipal funds later in the year. The medical personnel serving in all these institutions numbered 1,872 in all against 1,879 in 1935.

The total number of patients treated in all classes of hospitals and dispensaries in the province was 6,624,488 against 6,177,313 in 1935. The total number of beds available for in-patients was 3,402 for males and 1,726 for females. In all 333,103 surgical operations were performed during the year of which more than 95 per cent were entirely successful and cured the patients. The total number of deaths from various diseases in all the hospitals of the province was 5,485 which compares favourably with the number of patients treated and cured. A special grant for treatment of venereal diseases was distributed, as in the previous years, to Sadar and Subdivisional hospitals. The total expenditure incurred by Government over the maintenance and supervision of medical institutions was Rs. 22,22,998 during the year.

Medical aid to women.

Various causes, mainly financial, have impeded the establishment and extension of separate medical institutions for women, particularly in rural areas, where the need for such medical relief is greatest. That a very large number of women find it difficult

to attend general hospitals and dispensaries is evident from the fact that the ratio of male and female patients attending the various hospitals and dispensaries during the year was 5 to 1. But within the limited resources at their disposal and in spite of other difficulties, Government are doing their best to make available as much medical relief to women as possible. The hospitals for women at Patna, Barh, Gaya, Ranchi, Monghyr, Bettiah, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh and Chakradharpur were maintained as previously and did useful work. In almost all cases female wards were attached to the general hospitals and at places even separate arrangements existed for the distribution of medicines. Competent lady doctors are employed at most of the Sadar and Subdivisional hospitals. The local bodies too have been spurred into action.

The Bihar Maternity and Child Welfare Society continued to do its part for the relief of women. During the year there were six Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the province, three in Patna and one each in Monghyr, Muzaffarpur and Ranchi. Besides these there were four midwifery centres in Patna, Darbhanga, Manbhum and Ranchi, while the municipalities of Ranchi, Darbhanga, Purulia, Dhanbad and Patna Administration Committee maintained a midwifery service for their respective areas. The annual Government grant to the society was increased during the year from Rs. 6,900 to Rs. 9,000.

Nursing.

Nursing has yet to be developed as a profession in the province. Except in some of the important hospitals at the headquarters of districts, which employ a certain number of nurses both Indian and Anglo-Indian with some European nurses or sisters, the nursing of patients is generally left to the ward attendants. Though Government encourage the training of nurses and regular examinations are held twice every year by the Bihar and Orissa Medical Examination Board, very few women volunteer to undergo the training.

Medical education.

The Prince of Wales Medical College and the Medical School at Darbhanga continued to carry on their work satisfactorily. During the year the total number of students on the rolls of the college was 309 and 248 on the rolls of the school. Of these 39 completed their course of training successfully at the college and 44 at the school.

Mental Hospitals.

The European Mental Hospital and the Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi continued to afford treatment and relief to a large number of mental defectives. The number of patients resident in the

European Mental Hospital at the beginning of the year 1936 was 215 against 196 in the previous year. Of these 101 were males and 114 females. Besides these, 22 males and 29 females were admitted to the hospital during the year under report raising its total population to 266 against 254 in 1935. At the Indian Mental Hospital there is accommodation for 1,014 males and 272 females besides 94 additional beds for emergency cases. Of this accommodation 75 per cent is allocated for Bengal, 20 per cent for Bihar and 5 per cent for Orissa. With the admission of 104 males and 43 females the total population of the hospital grew to 1,449 during the year with 1,157 patients in the Male Section and 292 in the Female Section.

Modern methods of treatment are followed in both these institutions. Of all these, occupational therapy has come to be recognised as the sheet-anchor of the psychiatrist and has shown beneficial results. Occupation is recognised as an important therapeutic agent and has been defined as the organisation of suitable employment for the purpose of combating illness. Hence this method of treatment by assigning suitable and congenial occupations to the patients has done much to break the routine institutional life of these hospitals and create a new hope and cheerfulness among the patients. The total expenditure over the European Mental Hospital was Rs. 3,50,419 and over the Indian Mental Hospital Rs. 4,72,664.

Itki Sanatorium.

The Itki Sanatorium is gaining in popularity from year to year. The capacity of the Sanatorium which is limited to 66 beds is not sufficient to cope with the present-day demand. During the year 211 patients applied for accommodation but only 126 were admitted, this being made possible by adding a temporary shed to accommodate surplus patients. The construction of the 31 additional blocks, which was sanctioned by Government last year, was in progress and it was hoped to have sufficient accommodation for patients by July 1937.

The Radium Institute.

The Radium Institute at Patna, which was the solitary institution of its kind in India for long and is still the best centre for radium treatment in the country, completed the 15th year of its existence during the year. It continued to draw patients from all over India and 859 new patients were attended to at the Institute during the year. The total number of treatments given was, however, much more than this figure and rose from 2,476 in 1935 to 2,692 in 1936.

The Pasteur Institute.

With the separation of Orissa the anti-rabic centre at Cuttack became a separate unit and the Pasteur Institute at Patna devoted all its attention to the patients in Bihar. Treatment was given to 5,092 patients at the Institute, of whom 3,241 were indigent. In pursuance of Government decision to decentralise anti-rabic treatment for general convenience, Pasteur clinics have now been opened at some of the Sadar and Subdivisional Hospitals.

CHAPTER VII.

Maintenance of peace, Administration of Justice and Jails.

The Police.

As in the past years, the police continued to discharge with credit their essential function of maintaining the public peace. Though no improvement was noticeable in inter-communal relations during the year, it was due to the watchfulness and efforts of the police that religious festivals such as Bakr-Id and Muharram passed off without any serious trouble. The difficulties of their task and the strain to which the police force in the province were exposed might be judged in the light of some of the ugly communal clashes that occurred during the year. A Hindu marriage party was attacked by some Muhammadans when it was trying to pass by a mosque in Jamalpur in the month of April, and a similar attack was made on a Dasahra procession while passing in front of a mosque at Aurangabad. The most serious disturbance of the year was rioting at Sasaram on the occasion of Gopastami festival in November, when several persons were killed and the situation remained critical for some days, necessitating the quartering of additional police. The Mahabiri Jhanda processions too would not have been the peaceful ceremonies that they were this year without adequate timely police precautions.

In 1936 a sum of Rs. 18,711 was spent in rewards to 4,186 policemen for meritorious services, while 1,720 members of the public were rewarded to the aggregate of Rs. 8,283 for the assistance rendered to the police force. 120 criminal charges were made against members of the police force, of which, however, only 4 were declared to be true, 15 false, 40 were dismissed, 13 withdrawn, 17 ended in conviction, 15 in acquittal and 16 were pending at the close of the year. The total number of police officers and men on whom judicial and departmental punishments were imposed was 74 and 414 respectively against 91 and 392 respectively during the previous year. Of these 6 officers and 57 men were dismissed, and 32 officers and 86 men preferred appeals against major punishments, of which in 91 cases the orders passed were upheld, in 19 they were modified or reversed and 8 cases were pending at the close of the year.

The total expenditure on the police force in the province, was Rs. 72,00 during the year 1936-37. The grant for construction and maintenance of police buildings was Rs. 4,64,030 or Rs. 62,162 more than in the previous year. Administrative approval was accorded to the reconstruction of 14 earthquake projects involving the erection of 50 buildings at a total cost of Rs. 2,43,609. Among the additions and improvements effected in the Police Force were the creation of one additional post of Deputy Superintendent, the creation of two Range Detective Staffs consisting of 2 Inspectors and 15 sub-inspectors, the increase in the reserve of sergeants by 2, the splitting up of the jurisdiction of Chapra Government Railway Police on the Bengal and North-Western Railway and the creation of an additional police-station at Savan and an outpost at Thawe and another outpost at Tandwa within the jurisdiction of Barkagaon police-station in the district of Hazaribagh.

The services of the Military Police were frequently in demand during the year. Detachments of the Gurkha Military Police and the Mounted Military Police were deputed to several places during the year in Bakr-Id and half a company of the Bhagalpur Military Police was detailed to Monghyr for the Muharram. On the occasion of the communal riot at Sasaram and during the strike on the Bengal Nagpur Railway troops of the Mounted and Gurkha Military Police did much useful work. The manner in which all units of the Military Police performed their duty during the Viceregal visit to Ranchi drew favourable comments from Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Governor.

Literacy counts more now in the appointment of police constables than it ever did before. Out of 716 men appointed during the year, the number of illiterates was only 13 and there was evidently a marked improvement in the general education of the force. The majority of the constables can now read and write Hindustani and many are able to read and write English numerals and characters. Training in " first-aid " was given to 433 policemen, of whom 413 passed and the rest were still under training at the close of the year.

The work of the village police was, on the whole, satisfactory. A number of instances of good work have been reported during the year. In Patna, a chaukidar gave prompt information of the danger of communal trouble during the Bakr-Id and thus what might have developed into a serious communal trouble was averted.

In the same district, a chaukidar was instrumental in arresting an absconder who, in order to evade arrest, was about to make his way to Calcutta. In Gaya similarly, a chaukidar arrested a wanted dangerous gangster who was responsible for many dacoities and burglaries, and in Saran it was on the information of the village police that a big gang of dacoits was detected. Rewards amounting to Rs. 62,581 were distributed among 16,363 members of the rural police, while about one-third of the whole force was punished. The number of chaukidars dismissed was 629.

Revolutionary Crime.

The year was free from terrorist crime. But early in July, a bomb exploded in the room of a student residing at Khajekalan Ghat in Patna City. He and four others, who were experimenting in the manufacture of bombs, were prosecuted under the Explosive Substances Act. Three of them were convicted, while the remaining two were acquitted. In October, a bomb exploded in the court room of the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court and another in any empty motor van at the Patna Junction railway station. The bombs used, however, were of a crude type and did little damage. Of the two persons prosecuted in this connection, one was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment, while the other was acquitted. Two prominent Bengali labour agitators were externed under the Public Safety Act from the province during the year.

Crime.

Cognizable crime tended to rise during the year owing to the failure of crops due to severe floods and the economic depression. The number of true cognizable crime rose from 32,841 in the year 1935 to 35,294 in the year 1936, the principal increase being in the cases of lurking, house-trespass or house-breaking and theft. But there was a marked decrease in more serious forms of crime such as riots, dacoities and murders. Riots fell from 747 to 668, dacoities from 434 to 364 and murders from 311 to 260. There were also four attempts made to derail trains during the period April 1936 to March 1937 and though it was reported that burglaries had increased by 11.8 per cent in the year 1936, the report for the year 1936-37 showed a decrease of 571 cases in comparison with the burglaries during the year 1935-36. This result may be ascribed to the sustained and steady action taken against active bad characters and the special attention devoted to checking dacoities with the help of special dacoity squads and a special investigation staff. In Saran, Bhagalpur, Champaran, Gaya,

Darbhanga and Patna satisfactory decreases were recorded in dacoity cases and a large number of notorious dacoits were arrested. Timely and helpful co-operation of the Nepal authorities went a great way in dealing with the notorious Jhijha Dusadhs and a detachment of the Armed Range Reserve was detailed to patrol the border, where the operations of outside gangs were reported to be more free.

The number of recorded non-cognizable crime was 67,008 during the year as against 61,974 in 1935. The greater part of the increase was represented by cases under special and local laws. In 440 cases of burglary and 802 cases of theft, investigation was refused by the police. In 143 cases enquiry was ordered by the court after police refusal to investigate, and of these the number of cases ending in conviction was only 2.

The value of property stolen during the year 1936 was Rs. 14,58,649 against Rs. 15,30,570 during 1935 and the value of property recovered was Rs. 1,71,537 against Rs. 1,29,552. The percentage of cases in which recoveries were made increased from 22.2 to 28.2.

Murder.

There were only 260 true cases of murder reported during 1936 against 311 in 1935. Of these, 19 murders were due to witchcraft and 26 were committed for gain. 18 per cent of the cases were the outcome of intrigues with women and 17 per cent of revenge. Out of a total number of 112 cases, involving 241 persons, that were tried, only 48, involving 71 persons, ended in conviction. Some of the remarkable cases of murder may be mentioned individually. In Manbhum, a Kabuli was murdered for being oppressive in the realisation of his dues and in Hazaribagh a man was killed only for the sake of a few annas and his bedding. In Ranchi some persons took the law into their own hands and hanged a professional murderer, while another man of the same district killed his own wife suspecting her to be a witch. In another case of Hazaribagh a party of burglars quarrelled among themselves over the division of booty and ultimately killed one of their own fellow-members. In the Santal Parganas a woman had her husband killed and in Muzaffarpur a child was murdered and thrown into a well by his cousin for a gold talisman.

Riots and unlawful assemblies decreased appreciably in the districts of Darbhanga, Gaya, Monghyr and Bhagalpur during the year under review. Monghyr continued to head the list in this

class of crime and out of 668 cases reported throughout the province, no less than 87 cases came from this district alone. 23 riots and unlawful assemblies were due to communal clashes and 7 of these occurred in Shahabad. In all the total number of such cases fell by 10.5 per cent, but the resultant loss of life increased from 39 in the year 1935 to 64 during the year under review.

Dacoity.

It is satisfactory that the measures taken to stem the increase in dacoity in 1935 resulted during 1936 in a considerable decrease in this form of crime. Against 434 cases in 1935 and a triennial average of 380, true cases of dacoity reported during the year were 364. Of these 213 cases occurred in the Northern Range and 151 in the Southern. The most noticeable decreases were in the districts of Saran, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Champaran, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur and the most noticeable increases in the districts of Manbhum, Purnea, and Hazaribagh. The percentage of cases placed on trial fell from 31 to 27, while successful prosecutions rose from 56.7 to 65.3. The percentage of persons convicted was 46.4 against 41.4 in 1935.

Robbery and burglary.

212 cases of robbery were reported during the year against 209 in 1935. Of these 30 were highway robberies and 2 train robberies. On the Bengal and North-Western Railway a lady travelling in a 3rd class ladies' compartment was stabbed and robbed of her ornaments and, on the same railway, three days later, another lady passenger was threatened with a knife and relieved of her jewellery. 43 per cent of the cases reported were sent up for trial, of which 78 per cent ended in conviction against 63 per cent during the last year. The most noticeable increases were in the districts of Champaran, Monghyr, Purnea, Hazaribagh and Singhbhum, while the most appreciable decreases occurred in the districts of Patna, Saran and the Santal Parganas.

True cases of burglary rose by 10.6 per cent. In 1935 the cases reported numbered 14,882, while during the year under review these rose up to as many as 16,647. The incidence of this form of crime was 4.6 per ten thousand of the population and of the cases reported 8.3 per cent were sent up for trial, and 7 per cent resulted in conviction. The increase in burglaries during the year was attributable partly to bad crops, economic distress and unemployment as also to the influx of outside labour, and activities of local criminals and Jhijha Dusadhs.

Theft.

True cases of ordinary theft, excluding cattle-theft, rose from 8,670 in 1935 to 9,271 in 1936. Marked increases occurred in Purnea, the Santal Parganas, Ranchi, Gaya and Muzaffarpur and decreases in Monghyr and Darbhanga. In all 2,901 cases with 8,861 persons were tried, of which only a little less than 91 per cent, involving 46½ per cent of the persons charged, ended in conviction. Cases of cattle-theft rose to 762, that is to say, by about 31 per cent. They were most frequent in the districts of Ranchi, the Santal Parganas and Darbhanga and out of 497 cases sent up for trial 90 per cent resulted in conviction.

Offences against Currency.

This year the lowest figure was recorded since the year 1925 so far as cases of detected note forgery were concerned. Only 15 such cases were reported during the year against 18 in 1935, there being no convictions in these cases. Of 26 true cases of coining, however, 15 resulted in the conviction of 22 persons.

Fatalities.

The number of true cases of culpable homicide fell from 165 to 145, while that of infanticide from 14 to 12 during the year. Cases of suicide fell from 662 to 657, of which 250 were men and 407 women and children. Of the total number of cases reported as deaths by accidents, 25 were cases of murder and 5,291 of drowning. 10 true cases of drugging, including 5 of professional poisoning, were also reported.

Other Crimes.

209 true cases of arson were reported against 282 in 1935. Of these, 55 cases were sent up for trial, of which 31 ended in conviction. Of 172 cases of mischief to animals, against 149 of the last year, 75 were tried, of which 59 with 93 persons resulted in conviction. 6 cases of flaying goats alive were also reported, of which 5 ended in conviction. Out of 517 true cases of swindling reported this year no less than 144 were cases of professional cheating. In one case the bogus agency trick was used to cheat tradesmen and merchants all over India, while in another a widower anxious to get married was deprived of Rs. 425 by three persons who dressed a boy in female garb and passed him off as a woman.

Railway crime.

Though the total number of true cognizable cases on the Railways appears to have remained the same (1,136) as in the year 1935, the Bengal and North-Western Railway registered an increase of 44 cases, while

there was a decrease of 35 cases on the East Indian Railway. This decrease is attributable mainly to the vigilance of the flying squads. 20 cases of obstruction were reported, of which 14 were on the Bengal and North-Western Railway, and 6 on the East Indian Railway. Deaths due to accidents rose from 309 to 353 and 6 cases of collision resulted in the death of 5 persons. 66 cases of suicide were also reported on the Railways.

False cases.

The number of cases that were declared to be maliciously false rose from 1,153 to 1,274. Prosecutions were ordered in 306 such cases, of which 118 cases involving 119 persons ended in conviction. Compensation under section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code was also awarded in 41 such cases.

Surveillance.

The year closed with 22,074 persons on the police surveillance list, of which 3,545 were in jail, 16,639 under actual surveillance, and 1,890 persons were untraced. 34 arrests were made during the year by constables who recognised bad characters on sight. Arrests by picketing parties dropped from 456 to 323, of which 243 persons were convicted and 17 were under trial at the close of the year. 2,619 officers and men were employed on town patrol duty. Burglaries in towns rose from 2,255 in 1935 to 2,479 in 1936, and inadequate street-lighting is still reported to hinder the task of these patrol parties. Against the arrest by road parties of 514 persons with 280 convictions in 1935, there were 358 arrests with 245 convictions in 1936. Road patrol parties were also working regularly in some districts of the province and temporary patrols were deputed to certain crime-affected areas.

Criminal Investigation Department.

The number of history sheets of criminals, excluding those that were sent to the new province of Orissa, was 3,871, during the year. There were 5,495 registered members of the criminal tribes against 6,478 in the previous year. The decrease is due mainly to the removal of a number of Magahiya Doms and Chakai Dusadhs in accordance with the orders of Government.

The number of questioned documents received for examination fell from 111 to 90. The photographic section recorded the photographs of 156 prisoners, 780 manuscripts and 1,047 finger prints in addition to other miscellaneous work. The Finger Print Bureau examined 6,163 slips and identified 916 old criminals,

while 9,499 new slips were placed on record and 25,238 slips were eliminated, thus raising the total on record to 171,772. Finger-print experts gave evidence in 431 cases, of which 382 were private cases, and furnished opinions in 1,070 cases. The Bureau continued to be self-supporting, the fees received being Rs. 25,117 and the cost of maintenance being approximately Rs. 22,025 during the year.

Motor Vehicles.

The number of registered vehicles rose from 6,441 to 7,528 and the amount of tax collected from Rs. 4,87,831 to Rs. 5,14,303. 1,012 new driving licences were issued and 9,576 old ones were renewed. The number of persons injured in motor accidents reported during the year was 445, of which 76 ended fatally. The total number of prosecutions against motor drivers or owners was 2,258 against 2,875 in the previous year.

Criminal Justice.

During the year 97,284 criminal offences were reported against 110,458 in the previous year. Of the former, 51,049 were offences under the Indian Penal Code and 46,235 offences under local and special laws. The largest increases were in the districts of Saran, Patna and Shahabad. Cases under the district board by-laws were numerous in all these districts, particularly in Patna where a number of cases were instituted under the municipal by-laws and the Police and the Motor Vehicles Acts. The most appreciable decreases were in the districts of Manbhum, Singhbhum and Monghyr. Complaints were dismissed in 15,311 cases and the number of cases declared false after trial or enquiry was 1,000. These two classes together constituted 16.8 per cent of the total number of cases reported as against 16 per cent in the year 1935.

Magisterial Courts.

At the opening of the year 1936, 2,861 cases were pending before the magistrates. During the year 72,712 cases were brought to trial and 72,553 cases were disposed of, thus leaving a total number of 3,015 cases pending at the close of the year. Both the number of cases brought to trial and decided increased during the year, the former by 2,578 and the latter by 2,467. The number of cases that came up for trial before the courts was the highest in Saran and the lowest in Manbhum. Of the cases disposed of, the District Magistrates disposed of 31 cases, the Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates 56,923, Honorary Magistrates 14,685, benches of Magistrates 852 and special Magistrates 62. The total number of cases tried by

magistrates in the exercise of special powers under section 30 of the Criminal Procedure Code was 281 as against 292 in 1935. The extended use of the special powers by magistrates tended to lighten appreciably the burden of the Sessions Judges and Assistant Sessions Judges employed in the non-regulation districts and enabled them to dispose of civil business more expeditiously than usual.

Out of the cases disposed of by magistrates during the year, 610 were committed or referred to courts of Sessions, while 71,943 were finally disposed of by themselves. In the latter cases, 120,519 persons were accused as against 118,666 in the previous year; 63,334 or 52.6 per cent were convicted and 57,185 or 47.4 per cent were acquitted or discharged. The corresponding percentages for 1935 were 49.2 and 50.8 respectively. Of the total number of persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 30,434 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. In the result the percentage of convictions in the cases of persons actually tried was 70.3 as compared with 68.7 in 1935. Of the persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 22,558 or 32.5 per cent were convicted and 46,845 or 67.5 per cent were acquitted or discharged. Excluding the cases which were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default, the percentage of conviction was 48.5 against 48.7 in the previous year. Of the persons convicted 905 persons were sentenced after a summary trial. Comparatively fewer sentences were awarded during the year. Those sentenced to rigorous and simple imprisonment, excluding 461 persons imprisoned in default of furnishing security for good behaviour, numbered 11,374 and 459 against 13,295 and 442 respectively in the previous year. 130 persons were punished with whipping. In addition 49,393 persons were sentenced to fines aggregating Rs. 5,36,000 against Rs. 6,51,021 in the previous year. Of this, however, only a total amount of Rs. 3,52,966 against Rs. 3,69,669 in the year 1935, could be realised. The sums paid to complainants as compensation amounted to Rs. 46,026 and the reason why a large percentage of the fines remained unrealised is perhaps to be sought in the economic depression. Terms of solitary confinement were awarded to 6 of the persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, while 26 youthful offenders were sentenced to detention in the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh. In false and malicious cases filed deliberately, 170 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to the accused persons as against 198 in the preceding year.

The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates was 175,867 as compared with 182,958 in 1935. The number of

witnesses discharged without examination was 48,366 or 21.6 per cent of the total number in attendance. The recorded amount paid to witnesses for expenses rose from Rs. 1,32,302 in 1935 to Rs. 1,36,132 in 1936.

Courts of Sessions.

The number of cases committed for trial or referred to the Sessions courts during the year was 610 against 833 in the previous year. Of the 613 cases tried by these courts, 431 were tried by Sessions and Additional Sessions Judges, and 182 by Assistant Sessions Judges. There were increases in the number of such cases in the districts of Gaya (63 to 74) and Singhbhum (17 to 23) in comparison with the preceding year. There were altogether 2,655 persons under trial before the Courts of Sessions during the year, of which the cases of 2,157 were decided and 483 remained pending. Of the total number of persons tried, 1,072 were convicted, 992 were acquitted or discharged and the cases of 93 were referred to the High Court. The lowest percentage of convictions was in the district of Darbhanga (26.9) and Muzaffarpur (38), while the percentage for the whole province was 49.7 against 47.3 in the previous year. The number of under-trial persons who either died or escaped was 15. Of the punishments inflicted on 993 persons convicted by Courts of Sessions, 58 were sentences of death against 74 in the previous year, 74 of transportation for life or a term of years against 84 and 13 of whipping in addition to other punishments. The remainder were sentences of rigorous imprisonment or fine. Three youthful offenders were sentenced to detention in the Reformatory School. The total amount of fines imposed by Courts of Session was Rs. 10,051, of which only Rs. 1,293 was realised. Of this latter amount a sum of Rs. 850 was paid to complainants as compensation. In addition to the above, 206 persons were sentenced to imprisonment for various terms below three years on account of their failure to furnish security for good behaviour.

Duration of Sessions cases.

The average duration of sessions trials from the date of commitment to the date of decision was 71.6 days against 70.7 days in 1935.

The duration was specially long in the districts of Darbhanga, Gaya, Bhagalpur and the Santal Parganas, attributed mainly to the facts that cases were keenly contested necessitating adjournments of other cases or congestion of files for one reason or another. The most noticeable decrease was in the districts of Manbhum and Muzaffarpur. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of cases of unusual delay in commitment, particularly of cases in

which more than two months intervened between apprehension and commitment.

Jury Trials.

The system of trial by jury remained unchanged and was continued in all the districts in which it prevailed before. But as regards the working of the system there was a divergence of opinion amongst Sessions Judges and defects in its working pointed out by some of them are under the consideration of the High Court. The number of persons tried by jury was 501 and the verdict of the jury was accepted by the judges in respect of 461 persons. In respect of 40 persons references were made to the High Court by the judges under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 1,367. In the cases of 710 persons the Sessions Judge agreed with the opinion of the assessors and in the cases of 257 persons he differed from the opinion of all. In the cases of 400 persons he, however, differed with only a few of the assessors.

Appeals.

In the Sessions Courts there were 271 appeals pending at the beginning of the year 1936 and during the year 2,792 appeals were preferred. The number decided during the year was 2,832 and 231 were pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals preferred was the same as in 1935. There was an increase in seven sessions divisions and a decrease in four, the largest increase being in the sessions division of Manbhum-Singhbhum and the largest decrease in Saran. The number of persons concerned in the appeals decided by Sessions Judges during the year was 5,601, of whom 3,224 or 57.6 per cent failed completely. The appeals of 1,463 or 26.1 per cent were summarily dismissed. Of those whose appeals were admitted, 1,761 or 42.6 per cent were altogether unsuccessful; 860 or 20.8 per cent obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 1,495 or 36.1 per cent were acquitted. In the cases of 17 or .4 per cent a new trial or further enquiry was ordered; cases of 4 persons were referred to the High Court and in the case of one proceedings were quashed.

In the courts of magistrates there were 192 appeals pending at the beginning of the year. During the year 2,472 or 30 more appeals than in the year 1935 were preferred and the number decided was 2,496. 168 appeals remained pending at the close of the year. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of magistrates was 5,695. The appeals of 1,124 or 19.7 per cent were summarily dismissed and 3,360 or 59 per cent appellants were wholly unsuccessful. Of the remainder, 860 or 15.1 per cent

of the appellants obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them and 1,394 or 24.5 per cent were acquitted. In the cases of 76 or 1.3 per cent appellants a new trial or further enquiry was ordered and the cases of 5 were referred to the High Court.

During the year, 265 criminal appeals were preferred in the High Court. 282 such appeals were decided and 6 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the appeals preferred, 216 were against sentences passed by Courts of Sessions, 33 were against sentences passed by magistrates acting under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and 10 were under section 476-B of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In addition there were six appeals by Government against orders of acquittal. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 220 out of 282 appeals decided, reversed in 32 and modified in 27. In one case the proceedings were quashed and in two cases the sentence was enhanced. Of the persons concerned, the appeals of 350 were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and in admitted appeals the sentences on 184 appellants were confirmed, on 79 reduced or altered, on 113 annulled and on 5 enhanced, and in the case of one proceedings were quashed. The percentage of appellants who were entirely unsuccessful was 73.6 as against 72.3 in 1935.

Death Sentences.

Thirty-four references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for confirmation of sentences of death, were made to the High Court during the year besides the 3 that were pending from the previous year. 36 references in which 60 persons were concerned were disposed of. The sentence of death passed on 27 persons was confirmed and that passed on 12 was commuted to transportation for life. 17 others had the sentence set aside and were acquitted while the conviction of 4 persons was altered and they were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. One reference involving one person remained pending at the close of the year.

Panchayat Courts.

There were altogether 116 panchayat courts in the province during the year, of which 93 were in the district of Muzaffarpur alone. In this district these courts disposed of as many as 1,812 cases. In the districts of Saran, Darbhanga, Patna, Gaya, Purnea and Bhagalpur, also these courts afforded some relief to the Magistracy by disposing of a number of petty disputes.

Complaints by Courts.

During 1936, 674 cases were instituted on the complaints of courts and 99 were pending at the opening of the year. 441 of these cases ended in

conviction and 172 in acquittal, 27 cases were withdrawn, 7 were dismissed, in 3 the accused persons escaped, proceedings in 5 cases were dropped and 118 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Receipts.

The fees and fines realised in criminal courts amounted to Rs. 8,41,510. Of this, Rs. 3,43,655 were fines, Rs. 82,800 process fees, Rs. 1,42,137 copying and comparing fees, Rs. 2,38,368 court-fee stamp receipts other than the above and Rs. 34,550 miscellaneous receipts.

Civil Justice.

There was a decrease in litigation throughout the province. The number of original civil suits instituted in the province in 1936 was 199,001, a decrease of 32,879 from the previous year. The most marked decreases were in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Monghyr, Saran and Bhagalpur. Of the instituted suits, 37,707 were for money or movable property, 148,496 were rent suits, and 12,798 were title and other miscellaneous suits. Compared with the figures of the previous year the increase in the number of title suits was slight, but the decrease in the number of money suits still continued. The progressive increase in the number of rent suits since 1933 was not only arrested, but there was a definite decrease in the number of rent suits instituted in 1936. It is probable that the effects of the economic depression in the province are gradually disappearing and this is reflected in the lesser number of rent suits instituted during the year, though in some districts local reasons for the decrease have been given. The value of the suits instituted amounted to Rs. 4,26,01,054, a decrease of Rs. 22,06,405 as compared with 1935. The decrease was mainly due to the fall in the number of suits instituted in the year under review.

The following table shows the number of suits instituted in each district:—

Muzaffarpur	31,905
Saran	26,538
Darbhanga	26,032
Shahabad	20,184
Purnea	18,910
Patna	18,362
Bhagalpur	18,103
Monghyr	15,670
Gaya	12,681
Manbhum-Singhbhum	6,674
Chota Nagpur	3,942

The number of suits instituted together with the number pending from the previous year (126,067) and the number revived or otherwise received during the year (19,074) made a total of 344,142 suits awaiting disposal during the year. The number of suits, however, that were disposed of was actually only 224,959. The average disposal of suits in the courts of Subordinate Judges decreased from 285.7 in 1935 to 282.8 in 1936, and that of suits in the courts of Munsifs decreased from 3192.7 to 3050.6. Of the total number of suits decided, 219,651, of which less than one-ninth fell within the small cause court procedure, were disposed of by Munsifs, 5,260 by Subordinate Judges and 48 by District and Additional District Judges. The number of suits disposed of under the small cause court procedure by Subordinate Judges was 140 less than in 1935. The number of such suits disposed of by Munsifs was less by 2,403. Of the 22,208 suits decided after contest, 265 or 1.2 per cent were decided on reference to arbitration. Of the remaining 98.8 per cent, 85 per cent or 18,881 suits ended in favour of the plaintiff and 13.8 per cent or 3,062 suits in favour of the defendant. The number of suits compromised was highest in Muzaffarpur (1,795).

There was a remarkable fall in the average duration of suits decided on contest in the courts of the District Judges. The duration of contested suits under the ordinary procedure in the courts of the Subordinate Judges was above the average for the province in five districts, the highest figures being 623, 547 and 541 days in the districts of Darbhanga, Bhagalpur and Gaya respectively. In the Munsifs' courts the average duration of suits decided on contest under the ordinary procedure was slightly higher than in the preceding year. The duration was above the average for the province in three districts, the highest figures being in the districts of Patna (327) and Muzaffarpur (284.8).

The number of suits pending at the close of the year fell from 126,067 to 100,953 or by 19.9 per cent; and the number of suits pending for over one year from the date of institution fell from 1,769 to 1,768, a decrease of .05 per cent. There were 57,598 applications for the execution of decrees pending from the previous year and 146,103 applications were made during the year. Full satisfaction was obtained in 96,322 and partial satisfaction in 10,739 cases; in 32,377 cases the proceedings were returned as wholly infructuous, while 61,570 remained pending at the close of the year.

The total amount realised in courts, other than small cause courts, was Rs. 1,86,71,567. The coercive measures employed

included in 448 cases the arrest of the judgment-debtor, in 461 and 46,833 cases respectively, the sale of movable and immovable property, and in 37,556 cases the attachment of property followed by its release. Possession of immovable property was given in 1,035 cases, of which the largest number (250) was in the district of Manbhum-Singhbhum.

The number of applications for re-trial was 3,624 or 2.2 per cent of the total number of cases dismissed for default of the plaintiff or decreed ex-parte in the absence of the defendant. Of cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings, 29,910 were instituted, 31,591 were disposed of and 8,480 remained pending. Of the cases disposed of, 4,733 were compromised or decreed on confession, 6,247 were decided ex-parte and 8,437 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 46.6 per cent were granted. In respect of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature institutions and disposals numbered 1,022 and 1,077 respectively. The number of applications made by tenants for deposit of rent was highest in Muzaffarpur and Shahabad.

Civil Appeals.

The number of civil appeals and miscellaneous cases preferred before the High Court in 1936 was 2,563 in all. In addition there were 2,882 such cases pending from the previous year. Of the total number, 2,720 were decided during the year, 2,724 remained pending at the close of the year and one was transferred to the category of miscellaneous appeals.

In the appellate courts subordinate to the High Court the appeals instituted numbered 5,443, being 550 more than in 1935, an increase of 11.2 per cent. The largest increases were in Patna and Shahabad and the largest decrease was in Monghyr. Appeals were preferred in 29.1 per cent of appealable cases, that is, 2.6 per cent more than last year. The total number of appeals decided was 5,030, of which 56 per cent were decided by District and Additional District Judges and 44 per cent by Subordinate Judges. On the 1st of January 1937, the number of pending appeals was 4,001 or 484 more than at the end of the previous year. The number of appeals pending over a year increased from 192 to 286 or by 49 per cent, the largest number being in the district of Shahabad. In 58.4 per cent of the appeals disposed of by appellate courts the judgment of the lower courts was affirmed, in 11.3 per cent it was modified and in 14 per cent it was reversed. In 2.3 per cent cases, the appeals were remanded and in 14 per cent

they were either dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted. Thus in every one case out of four, the decisions of the lower courts were interfered with by the superior courts. In addition to the regular appeals, 1,849 miscellaneous appeals were instituted, 1,745 were disposed of and 543 remained pending at the close of the year (1936).

Judicial Staff.

On the separation of Orissa from Bihar with effect from April 1, 1936, the judgeships of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore, together with the executive district of Sambalpur went into the new province. A new judgeship comprising the districts of Manbhum and Singhbhum had, therefore, to be created, and the civil districts which now form the province of Bihar are Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Purnea and Chota Nagpur besides this new judgeship.

Besides the permanent personnel of the High Court, the two temporary appointments of Additional Judges, sanctioned with effect from the 26th October, 1934 and the 8th December, 1935, were extended up to the beginning of the vacation of 1937 and 1936 respectively. In the districts, two permanent Additional Judges were added to the cadre of the District and Sessions Judges, while two posts of Subordinate and four of Additional Sessions Judges were abolished. These two new additions went to increase the number of the peripatetic Additional District and Sessions Judges in the province and two posts of Munsifs were also created permanently for employment as Registrars of the Civil Courts at Patna and Gaya. In all, besides one temporary Additional District and Sessions Judge and five temporary Additional Subordinate Judges, who worked for varying periods during the year under review, the permanent civil judicial staff subordinate to the High Court consisted of 17 District Judges, 24 Subordinate Judges and 79 Munsifs.

Magisterial Staff.

For executive purposes, the province of Bihar now consists of 16 districts, namely, Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Purnea, the Santal Parganas, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Champaran, Darbhanga, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Palamau, Manbhum and Singhbhum. The magisterial staff of the province, at the close of the year 1936, consisted of 293 stipendiary and 117 honorary magistrates. Of the 293 stipendiary magistrates, 175 exercised first class, 102 second class and 16 third class powers. Of the honorary magistrates, three were special magistrates under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Miscellaneous.

As in the last year, the new rules regarding the issue of commissions requiring a knowledge of surveying were reported to be working satisfactorily. During the year 1936 the total number of commissions issued was 1,101, of which 70.2 per cent were executed by pleaders holding certificates of proficiency in surveying, 24.9 per cent by other pleaders and 4.9 per cent by Bachelors of Civil Engineering or persons having other prescribed qualifications. The total amount of fees realised from parties for issue of commissions was Rs. 40,867, of which Rs. 29,279 went to the former class of pleaders. The latter class of pleaders received Rs. 9,639 and engineers, etc., Rs. 1,950. The number of commissions of other kinds issued was 912 and the total amount of fees paid in respect of them was Rs. 21,563.

The accounts of estates under the fiduciary control of the civil courts, with an annual income of over Rs. 4,000, continued to be audited by the Local Audit Department with appreciably good results. The Panchayat courts affected the institution of small cause court suits in the Munsifs' courts of Purnea and Araria but in other parts of the province they are reported to have played no useful part.

The Usurious Loans Act and the addition made in 1929 to rule 8, Order XVI of the Civil Procedure Code, continued to work satisfactorily during the year. In the case of one judgeship the new system of permitting service of summons on witnesses by parties reduced the process-serving establishment very remarkably and the receipts from process-fees fell throughout the province. Some serious difficulties were found in the operation of some of the sections of the Bihar Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1934, and the matter was brought to the notice of Government by the High Court. Rules for the registration and professional employment of Advocates' clerks were framed by the High Court and the Bar Council in consultation and promulgated under their joint authority during the year. These rules define the rights and duties of authorised clerks. In 1934 the Subdivisional Officers of Banka, Monghyr Sadr and Jamui were invested with powers to try civil suits in which one of the parties was a Santal or Bhuiya and it was reported that the experiment brought immense relief to the class of people concerned. The experimental appointments of Registrars for the civil courts at Patna and Gaya proved successful with the result that these appointments were made permanent during the year. The experiment was also subsequently extended to the judgeship of Monghyr.

The experiment of the use of Nastaliq Urdu and Roman as optional court scripts in the civil courts of the Patna Division continued during the year.

Jails.

There were 4 central, 9 district and 40 subsidiary jails in the province. The juvenile jail at Monghyr, which was closed down towards the close of 1934, was re-opened on the 11th August 1936 after the reconstruction of its earthquake-damaged buildings. On account of the large increase in the jail population and the congestion in the permanent jails due to an increase in the number of convicts the sub-jails at Arrah, Chaibassa and Daltonganj continued to function as district jails and the district jail at Dumka was raised to the status of a second class prison. The number of prisoners at the commencement of the year was 11,417 as against 11,742 in 1935. The number of admissions, including transfers, rose from 58,892 to 60,116 and the number of prisoners discharged from 59,217 to 59,968. The year 1936 closed with a jail population of 11,569 or 148 more than in the previous year. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes was 11,958.20 or 279.37 more than in 1935. Of this the average number of convicts was 10086.98, of under-trials 1822.61 and of civil prisoners 48.61. Twenty-seven convicts, who volunteered for service in the Andamans, were transported during the year with the sanction of the local Government, while 4 convicts were released on the recommendation of the revising board. Prisoners were given every reasonable facility to perform their religious observances and voluntary religious instructors attended jails on Sundays and other festival days to deliver moral and religious discourses for the benefit of the prisoners.

There was an increase in the number of prisoners below the age of 20 years admitted during the year and the number rose from 1,608 to 1,707 as compared with the previous year. The number of female convicts fell from 564 to 533.

There was a welcome fall in the average period of detention of under-trial prisoners, the longest average detentions being in the districts of Purulia, Gaya, Purnea, Dumka, Motihari and Bhagalpur only. The Inspector-General of Prisons once more emphasised the desirability of disposing of the cases of under-trial prisoners speedily to avoid overcrowding in jails.

The daily average number of civil prisoners was 48.61 against 41.25 in 1935 and there was no state prisoner confined in the jail during the year. The year began with 22 terrorist prisoners in the jails and ended with 21 in custody. The number of such

prisoners admitted during the year was 6, while the number of those discharged was 7. Owing to the overcrowding in the Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi, the arrangement for confining criminal lunatics temporarily in the Hazaribagh Central Jail continued during the year. Towards the close, however, orders were issued authorising the Superintendent of the Indian Mental Hospital to admit 94, instead of 50, patients in excess of the sanctioned accommodation. This, it is hoped, will result in a smaller number of criminal lunatics being detained in the Hazaribagh Central Jail. Forty-six non-criminal lunatics were sent to jails for observation against 48 in the previous year. With the opening of the year there were 27 criminal lunatics in the Hazaribagh Central Jail awaiting to be admitted into the Indian Mental Hospital at Ranchi and 10 were admitted during the year, 6 were transferred to the Mental Hospital as beds were available, 3 were transferred to others jails, and one died in the jail hospital, leaving a balance of 27 at the close of the year.

Education of Prisoners.

Besides their punitive side the prisons have their corrective side as well. Education having been found to be a useful reformative method, compulsory education up to the primary standard of all Hindi-speaking ordinary prisoners of 25 years or below was continued in the Gaya Central Jail throughout the year, while the Bhagalpur Central Jail imparted compulsory education to Urdu-speaking 'A' class male prisoners of 25 years of age and under. At the beginning of the year there were 79 and 117 prisoners receiving instructions in the classes of the former and the latter jails and 79 and 52 new admissions were made respectively in these classes of both the jails in 1936. At the close of the year, however, only 104 and 48 prisoners remained on the educational rolls of the Gaya and the Bhagalpur Central Jails, respectively, the rest having been transferred, released or found to have completed the age-limit. Physical training was also given. The more intelligent of the prisoners were given training in composing, book-binding, hand-weaving, carpentry, iron-smithy, masonry and gardening.

In the juvenile jail at Monghyr there are both day and night schools and on the opening day there were 158 juvenile prisoners on the rolls for education. Two hundred and eleven more boys were admitted during the year making a total of 369 students. Of these 236 boys were either released or transferred and 92 boys were examined, of which 79 were promoted to higher classes. The technical classes meant for these boys were divided into six sections of carpentry, blacksmithy, tinsmithy, masonry, cane work and

gardening, the latter two being very suitable and inexpensive industries for poor boys. Tools up to a total cost of Rs. 10 were supplied to technically-qualified students on their release. The daily average number of boys employed in different technical classes was 136.22. Religious and moral instruction was imparted to the juvenile prisoners twice a week and instructions in hygiene and first-aid were imparted to them through magic lantern by the Public Health Department. At Gaya and Bhagalpur jails too the prisoners were given a similar training by the Public Health Department.

There were 67 " Star Class " or casual and non-habitual prisoners in the Hazaribagh Central Jail, who were kept aloof from other prisoners to avoid any possible contamination and were taught various forms of weaving besides physical and elementary training.

Discipline.

The general discipline among the prisoners in the central and district jails showed a considerable improvement. Only 4 prisoners escaped during the year against 8 in the previous year. Of these 2 escapes occurred among convicts and 2 among under-trial prisoners.

The number of offences against discipline committed by convicts during the year was 4,038 or 1,223 less than in 1935. All were dealt with by the jail authorities except 5 which were referred to the criminal courts. The number of prisoners who were punished with whipping fell from 11 in 1935 to 7 in 1936. Fetters for safe custody were imposed in 83 cases against 112 cases in the previous year. Ordinarily only long-term and transportation prisoners who are considered to be dangerous are kept in fetters pending their transfer to the central jails.

The total strength of the permanent warder establishment during the year was 1,076 against 1,264 or a decrease of 188 as compared with the previous year. This decrease was mainly due to the separation of Orissa. The conduct of the warder guards during the year was better than in the previous year. The total number of punishments inflicted on warders and head-warders was 801 against 1,031 in the previous year. Of these 2 were judicially punished, 8 were dismissed, 2 were degraded, 413 were fined, 100 were given extra drill and 276 were formally censured or otherwise punished. The female warders of the Gaya and the Hazaribagh Central Jails were given training in maternity work in the local hospitals and there was a proposal to recruit gate-keepers for jails from the retired Indian Commissioned Officers of

the Army which, however, could not be given effect to due to paucity of funds. Departmental training of warders in drill by ex-army instructors was introduced in the Gaya Central Jail during the year, as an experimental measure, instead of at the Police Training School at Nathnagar.

The system of granting remission of sentences to convicts as a reward for good behaviour continued to exercise a salutary effect on the conduct and work of the prisoners and during the year altogether 5,203 convicts were released under this system against 4,858 in the previous year.

Jail Manufacture.

The jails continued to show good results on the manufacturing side and the total net profit and the average profit per head amounted to Rs. 1,04,433 and Rs. 10 against Rs. 62,765 and Rs. 6-9-0, respectively, in 1935. The principal industries of the central jails were tent-making, tailoring and cotton-weaving on power looms at Buxar, while blanket-weaving, tailoring, black-smithy and carpentry were in full swing at Bhagalpur. In Gaya the labouring prisoners were employed chiefly in the Forms Press Department and at Hazaribagh they were engaged in cotton and silk-weaving and made aloe fibre goods. The Jail Department secured 17 prizes, including the first prize (silver medal) for woollen carpets, in the Provincial Exhibition and the All-India Hand-weaving competition. Almost all sections of the manufactory department worked at a high pressure during the year and a very large number of tents, carpets, articles of furniture, etc., were supplied to the various Government departments and private individuals.

Health.

It is gratifying that in spite of the overcrowding, the general health of the prisoners was, on the whole, satisfactory. The total number of prisoners admitted into hospitals during the year 1936 was 4,812 against 4,326 in 1935 and the daily average of sick prisoners rose from 243.10 to 266.88. In other words, the ratio per mille of average strength of admissions to hospital was 402.4 against 370.4 in the previous year, while the daily sick rate per mille was 22.3 against 20.8. There was, however, a fall in the number of deaths which dropped to 176 from 197 in 1935, bringing down the death-rate per mille from 16.9 to 14.7.

Miscellaneous.

The total expenditure on jails, excluding the cost of buildings and repairs, was Rs. 13,56,158 against Rs. 12,82,804 in the preceding year. The average cost per head rose from Rs. 109-13-0 in 1935 to Rs. 113-7-0

in 1936 and this increase is attributable not only to the increase in jail population and purchase of better quality provisions at higher prices but also to several other improvements effected in the jails by Government. Formerly the male prisoners used to get three pairs of *janghias* and one sleeveless *kurta* but during the year under review they were given two pairs of trousers, one pair of *janghia* and one half-sleeve *kurta*. In one of the jails women prisoners were allowed to knit woollen jerseys for their own use instead of blanket coats and cotton bed-sheets were introduced in all the jails of the province for the use of prisoners. A special scale of diet and clothing for division III prisoners accustomed to western style of living was also sanctioned by Government. The jail dairies and gardens continued to be a good source of income and surplus vegetables and milk were sold to the public.

The total expenditure on jail buildings during the year 1936 was Rs. 71,956.

During the year Government introduced, as an experimental measure for three years, a " Board of Selection " for recruiting Assistant Jailors and Sub-Assistant Surgeons for the jails and delegated powers to the Divisional Commissioners to appoint non-official visitors to jails and to release sick prisoners whose unexpired portion of sentences did not exceed two years.

CHAPTER VIII.

Excise.

General.

THERE was no change in Government's Excise policy of 'minimum of consumption with the maximum of revenue' in respect of all intoxicants. As usual, preventive measures were taken to detect and prevent illicit distillation of liquor and smuggling of *ganja*, opium and *bhang*. Efforts were also made to put down the growing habit of opium smoking.

As the following table will show, there is a continued decrease in the cases of illicit distillation and other crimes under the Excise Law :—

Years.	Number of persons convicted for illicit distillation.	Total number of persons convicted under the excise and opium laws.
1932-33	2,886	5,692
1933-34 ...	1,843	4,103
1934-35 ...	1,657	4,105
1935-36 ...	1,084	3,487
1936-37 ...	821	3,171

Developments during the year.

During the year under report the contract distillery system and outstill system were in operation in the districts of Gaya, Shahabad, Champaran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, the Santal Parganas, Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum. The districts of Hazaribagh and Palamau were wholly under the outstill system, while in the remaining districts the contract distillery system of supply was retained. The contract rate for the supply of country spirit to retail shops was Rs. 1-1-6 L. P. gallon throughout the year. To stop the smuggling of liquor, the retail price of distillery spirit of the popular strength (72.5 U.P.) in the districts of Monghyr and Bhagalpur was reduced by eight annas per bulk gallon from the 1st April 1936. The rate of duty of this strength was also reduced by Rs. 1-4-0 in the urban area and Rs. 1-14-0 in the rural area. The retail prices of distillery spirit in Rajmahal subdivision of the district of Santal Parganas and in Jamshedpur in the district of Singhbhum were also reduced. The limit of possession

and sale of outstill liquor was reduced to one-third gallon in the municipal area of Chatra in the district of Hazaribagh.

Revenue.

The total gross revenue of the province of Bihar from excise for the year under report was Rs. 1,16,37,100 in round figures against Rs. 1,21,90,600 of the preceding year, out of this the net revenue comes to nearly Rs. 1,03,36,400 showing a decrease of about Rs. 5,38,800 over the figures of the previous year. The decrease occurred under the heads ' country spirit ', ' *tari* ', ' *ganja* ' and ' opium ' mainly due to the economic depression. The decrease in revenue under the head ' country spirit ' was also due to the settlement of shops for 1937-38 at lower fees and consequent less realisation of advance fees during the year 1936-37. The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 5 annas 9 pies against 6 annas in the preceding year. The figures for 1935-36 for the adjoining presidencies and provinces were Bengal 4 annas 3½ pies, United Provinces 4 annas 8 pies and Central Provinces 6 annas 6 pies.

The following table will show at a glance the position of the excise revenue and charges of the province for the last five years :—

Period.	Revenue.	Charges.	Refunds.	Net revenue.	Percentage of charges.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1932-33 ..	97,46,324	11,02,586	1,69,448	84,74,290	11·31
1933-34 ..	99,91,498	11,19,692	14,188	88,57,618	11·20
1934-35 ..	1,14,97,167	12,29,375	15,080	1,02,52,712	10·69
1935-36 ..	1,21,90,687	12,86,680	28,805	1,08,75,202	10·55
1936-37 ..	1,16,37,119	12,73,593	27,044	1,03,36,482	10·94
Difference between the year under report and the preceding year.	—5,53,568	—13,087	—1,761	—5,38,720	+0·39

Excise charges.

The total expenditure on the Excise Department amounted to Rs. 12,73,593 against Rs. 12,86,680 during 1935-36, a decrease of Rs. 13,087,

distributed under different heads. Expenditure on rewards was reduced due to the detection of a smaller number of cases and the stoppage of payment of rewards in petty cases.

Tree tax system for *tari*.

The tree tax system for *tari* was first introduced as an experimental measure in Dinapore sub-division in the district of Patna, during the year 1927-28 and was subsequently extended to all the districts of Patna and Tirhut Divisions and in the districts of Monghyr and Bhagalpur. The scheme worked satisfactorily and was made permanent, with effect from 1st March 1936. The rate of *tari* tax in distillery areas of the district of Champaran was reduced from the 1st April 1936. The rates of tax for the Basanti season (October to March) for palmyra trees in the whole of the districts of Patna, Gaya, Saran, Monghyr and Bhagalpur and on the Nepal border and outstill areas of the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga were reduced, with effect from the 1st October 1936.

There was a slight decrease in the total number of trees tapped in the tree tax area and also in the revenue from this source as compared with the preceding year. There was a marked increase in the total number of retail licences in the year under report, the number being 10,942 against the previous year's figures of 9,527. The increase in the number of shops was due to licensing of branch shops in places where an actual demand for *tari* existed and was formerly met by illicit supply. Two licences were issued for the sale of unfermented *tari* against four in the previous year.

Country spirit.

The total quantity of country spirit issued from the bonded warehouses on payment of duty was 573,758.1 L.P. gallons against 584,315.0 L.P. gallons in the preceding year. There was a heavy decrease in consumption in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, while Champaran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Purnea, the Santal Parganas, Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum showed an increase in consumption. The decrease in consumption was due to the economic depression, heavy floods, less earthquake reconstruction work and the abundant yield of Basanti *tari* while the increase in consumption was due to the reduction in the retail price of the liquor. The number of licences for the retail vend of country spirit in the distillery areas was 1,034 against 1,018 in the preceding year. 17 new shops were

opened to meet the local demand while one shop was abolished in Gaya. The total revenue from distillery and country spirit amounted to 91,01,538 of rupees, a decrease of Rs. 7,31,061 over the preceding year's figure. The incidence per head of population of the revenue from country spirit worked out, however, at only two annas eleven pies.

Pachwai.

The number of licences issued for the retail sale of *pachwai* increased from 429 in the preceding year to 446. The increase was due to the opening of new shops in the districts of Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum. In addition to the licences for retail sale, 3,271 home-brewing licences were issued at normal fees against 3,192. The total revenue from the issue of *pachwai* licences increased from Rs. 1,90,149 to Rs. 2,06,711. The concession enjoyed by the aboriginals for free home-brewing of *pachwai* remained unchanged during the year under report, except that the prohibited area of Jamshedpur was extended to some labour colonies outside the industrial area. The privilege of free manufacture of *pachwai* was very often abused by indulging in clandestine sales. Some persons enjoying the concession also helped their non-aboriginal neighbours by storing their illicit stuff in their own houses.

Foreign liquor.

As in the previous years, the use of foreign liquor was confined to Europeans, Anglo-Indians and a limited number of well-to-do Indians. The total quantities of alcoholic liquids from overseas consumed were 14,254 gallons of spirit, 4,386 gallons of wine and 69,274 gallons of beer against 13,010 gallons, 4,486 and 72,720 gallons respectively in the preceding year, while quantities of India-made 'foreign liquor' was consumed to the extent of 4,201 gallons of spirit and 13,318 gallons of beer against 3,326 and 2,803 gallons respectively. But these represent only a fraction of the actual consumption of foreign liquor in the province as many private consumers and *bona fide* clubs obtain their supplies direct from other provinces. No India-made 'foreign' liquor was manufactured in any distillery in this province. The total number of licences for the sale of potable foreign liquor was 205, an increase of 11 over the previous year's figure.

The revenue from this source amounted to Rs. 1,35,079 in the preceding year.

Ganja.

Nine licences for the cultivation of *ganja* was issued during the year 1936-37 as in the preceding year, but the area under cultivation was curtailed

to 129 acres from 133. The total quantity of *ganja* manufactured during the year was 878 maunds flat and 207 maunds of the round variety, sufficient to meet the demand of this province and Orissa for the next year. The cost price of flat *ganja* was fixed at Rs. 160 per maund during the year under report. The price of the round variety was fixed at Rs. 180 per maund, but was subsequently reduced to Rs. 170 and then to Rs. 160. Except for five maunds of *ganja* supplied to the district of Manbhum from Naugaon in Bengal, all the requirements of this province were met by the local product.

The number of licences for the retail sale of *ganja* increased from 1,102 to 1,114.

The rates of duty and retail prices of *ganja* remained the same as in the preceding year except that with a view to stop smuggling of *ganja* from other side of the Ganges, the duty was reduced from Rs. 40 to Rs. 35 a seer and the retail price from Rs. 80 to Rs. 70 a seer in the district of Patna with effect from the 1st April 1936.

The total quantity of *ganja* issued on payment of duty was 28,863 seers against 29,334 seers in the previous year. Exports of *ganja* totalled 1,084 seers to Nepal against 730 seers in 1935-36. 25 seers of *ganja* was exported to the Kharsawan State from Singhbhum against 26 seers to Kharsawan and 54 seers to Seraikella in the preceding year. The total quantity of duty realised on *ganja* exported amount to Rs. 22,680 against Rs. 17,800 in 1935-36.

The total revenue from *ganja* amounted to Rs. 18,85,227 against Rs. 19,45,766 in the preceding year. The incidence of taxation during the year was Rs. 64.5 per seer against Rs. 65.7 per seer in 1935-36.

Bhang.

The exclusive privilege of collection, storage and wholesale supply of *bhang* in the province continued to be the monopoly of a single individual. During the year he collected 512 maunds of *bhang* entirely from the district of Purnea. The drug was supplied from the central *gola* at Bhagalpur to the warehouses of this province as well as to the provinces of Bengal, Assam and Orissa. The quantity of *bhang* issued under bond to wholesale dealers of this province was 183 maunds 20 seers, while 225 maunds were exported to Bengal, 67 to Orissa and 37 seers to Assam. The total quantity

of *bhang* issued on payment of duty to retail vendors of the province during the year was 7,235 seers against 6,609 seers in the preceding year. Total revenue from *bhang* during the year amounted to Rs. 51,467 against Rs. 49,720 in the preceding year.

Opium.

There was no appreciable change in the number of licences issued for retail sale of opium or druggists' licences relating to opium for medical purposes. The total quantity of opium issued during the year to retail vendors within the province was 7,897 seers against 8,314 seers in the preceding year. The decrease is reported to be mainly due to bad economic condition of the people. Consequently the total revenue from opium decreased to Rs. 7,89,163 against Rs. 8,31,510 in the preceding year. The Government of India reduced the cost price of opium from Rs. 20-3-0 to Rs. 18-15-0 a seer with effect from the 1st April 1936.

The practice of administering opium to children is rare in this province. It existed to some extent amongst the labouring classes of the districts of Hazaribagh and Palamau only. Excise officers continued to explain the pernicious effects of the practice to the people found purchasing opium for the children as in previous years. Propaganda work was also done in this connection in the districts of Hazaribagh and Ranchi by the Inspecting staff of the District Board and of the Education Department. As a result, the practice is reported to have ceased to exist in the district of Ranchi and is gradually on the decline in the districts of Hazaribagh and Palamau.

Temperance.

There was no organised temperance movement or any anti-excise movement of a general character in any district during the year under report. An anti-drink propaganda was started by the Musahars in the districts of Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, but this was short-lived.

CHAPTER IX.

The Land and the People.

General.

The province of Bihar extends over an area of 69,950 square miles and now includes Bihar proper and Chota Nagpur, having suffered a territorial diminution owing to the constitution of the Orissa Division as a separate province. Bihar proper comprises the eastern portion of the Gangetic valley and is bounded on the north by the lower spurs of the Himalayas. It is a purely agricultural tract and is so exceptionally fertile that North Bihar is aptly called the " Garden of India ". The Chota Nagpur plateau, which is an integral part of Bihar since the time of the Emperor Akbar, forms the north-eastern portion of the table-land of central India and its undulating surface varies from about 500 to 3,000 feet above sea level. Most of this area is covered with forests, while cultivation is for the greater part confined to the valleys. The plateau is gifted with great mineral wealth, which is still largely undeveloped. In Bihar the common language is Hindustani except that the aboriginal section of the people of Chota Nagpur plateau speak a number of non-Aryan languages such as Ho, Oraon and Mundari.

The population of the province as recorded by the last census was 32,558,056. But statistics show that it has gone up appreciably since then. This rapidly growing population and the consequent pressure on land present a problem of serious magnitude. For a province which is overwhelmingly agricultural and in which the bulk of the people are dependent for their livelihood upon the soil the most vital economic issue is whether the production of agriculture can keep pace with this staggering growth of population. As it is, 20½ million acres, which are under food-grains, produce some 179½ million maunds annually, and this falls short by about 44 million maunds to feed a population of over 32½ millions with two square meals a day. Competent authorities opine that the remedy lies in increased production by means of better methods of cultivation and other measures such as consolidation of holdings, which hold out the possibility of a marked amelioration in the standard of living of the great mass of agriculturists. Industrialisation with special emphasis on cottage and village industries is another phase wherein lie the seeds of future economic welfare of the teeming millions of Bihar.

Land revenue and cess.

During the year under report there were in all 115,921 revenue-paying estates against 115,359 in the preceding year. Of these 114,823 were permanently-settled estates, an increase of 563 due to partition, 790 temporarily-settled estates and 308 were under direct management. The total current revenue demand decreased from Rs. 1,25,86,182 to Rs. 1.25.52,495. the decrease being mainly due to the revision of assessment on settlement and re-settlement of temporarily-settled estates and estates under direct management, transfer of certain estates from Shahabad to Ballia in the United Provinces, correction of the demand of estates held direct by Government in Shahabad in accordance with the mufassal rental and abatements granted in Bhagalpur on account of diluvion. The percentage of total collection on total demand decreased from 90.11 to 89.20, while the oustanding balances at the close of the year rose from Rs. 13,31,471 to Rs. 14,14,428, most of this being in course of realisation. In the directly managed estates the percentage of total collection to total demand decreased from 58.31 to 51.53, while remissions amounted to Rs. 79,671 against Rs. 41,274 in the previous year.

The cess demand increased from Rs. 72,99,611 to Rs. 73,32,944. The increase mainly occurred in the districts of the Santal Parganas, Hazaribagh, Manbhum and Singhbhum. In the Santal Parganas it was due to revaluation, while in Singhbhum to increase in the despatch of iron-ore. The provincial percentage of total collections on current demand decreased from 103.48 to 97.60.

Coercive measures.

The sale law was administered leniently and with due discretion. The number of defaulters in payment of land revenue and the number of sales in all the districts of the province, excepting Ranchi and Singhbhum, decreased from 9,734 and 288 to 9,491 and 238, respectively.

Government estates.

The total cost of management of the Government estates decreased from Rs. 1,64,856 to Rs. 1,63,048 and that on works of improvement from Rs. 1,26,771 to Rs. 86,195, during the year. Among the measures of relief afforded to the tenants were the remission of rent and the grant of taccavi loans and gratuitous relief. A liberal remission of arrear of rents was allowed to the tenants in the Tintanga Government estate in Bhagalpur and a settlement of fair rent was in progress in the estate. The percentage of management charges increased from 10.14 to 10.22.

Wards and Encumbered estates.

The number of estates under the management of the court of wards, at the beginning of the year, was 65. Three new estates were brought under management, eight were released and four were transferred to Orissa. The number of estates at the close of the year thus stood at 56. A sum of Rs. 12,78,334 out of the total demand of Rs. 14,86,164 was paid during the year on account of revenue and cess to Government. Taking advance payments into account, the balance outstanding amounted to Rs. 1,92,990, Rs. 1,47,315 was paid on account of rent and cess due to superior landlords and Rs. 62,205 remained outstanding at the close of the year. The payment amounted to 79.2 per cent on the total demand against 71.2 per cent in the previous year. The demand for rent and cess due to estates under management during the year, including arrear demand, was Rs. 98,56,791, of which Rs. 54,36,974 was collected. The percentage of total collection on current demand was 99.5 against 106.9 in the previous year, the standard of 100 per cent collection being attained in 24 estates. The total indebtedness of the estates amounted to Rs. 53,11,967 during the year. The cost of management was 13.0 per cent of the aggregate of the current rent and cess demand and of the recurring income from minerals, fisheries, etc., of the estates against 12.8 per cent in the preceding year. The estates made larger contributions to schools, dispensaries and charities and also towards agricultural and sanitary improvements during the year. The Bettiah Estate spent Rs. 41,854 on education, Rs. 98,481 on dispensaries and Rs. 94,413 on charities, while in the Bhagalpur Division the total expenditure on schools and dispensaries rose to Rs. 20,717 and in Hazaribagh Rs. 1,57,517 was expended. The total expenditure on agricultural and sanitary improvements rose to Rs. 9,64,646 in the Tirhut Division, while in the Bhagalpur Division and the Chota Nagpur Division the total expenditure was Rs. 9,066 and Rs. 18,891 respectively.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

Relations between landlords and tenants were not happy in Bihar and Dinapore subdivisions of Patna, in Gaya generally and in certain estates in Shahabad, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Monghyr districts. The causes of friction were partly due to the failure of landlords to control their staff and to realise that they had any other purpose than to collect their dues and partly to their neglect to maintain irrigation facilities in their estates and to give relief to tenants in regard to high rents fixed on the basis of pre-war high prices of agricultural produce. The grievances of the tenants

of the Bahadurpur Wards Estate in Monghyr were personally enquired into by the Member of the Board of Revenue and resulted in Government passing orders granting generous relief all round. At the instance of the Board of Revenue the Deputy Commissioner of the Santal Parganas undertook enquiry into the heavy accumulation of arrears of rent in the Rajmahal subdivision. In contrast with Bihar proper, relations between landlords and tenants continued to be better in the Chota Nagpur Division except in Ramgarh Wards Estate concerning restrictions involved in the reservation of forest and in a few other petty estates.

Survey and Settlement.

During the year revision settlement operations were continued in the Dhalbhum subdivision of the Singhbhum district and the programme consisted of final publication of the record-of-rights, computation, recovery of Survey and Settlement costs, fair rent settlement and disposal of cases under sections 89 and 90 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act in respect of Dhalbhum pargana in the district of Singhbhum. Some cases under sections 89 and 90 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act were also disposed of in the Ranchi district.

In the sphere of fair rent settlement, Government ordered that *Khajnajogya* holdings or lands liable to be assessed to rent, should be assessed to rent under section 85(2)(*ii*) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. It was also ordered that settlement of fair rent under section 85(2)(*ii*) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act should be made for all *raiyati* lands recorded as liable to assessment and legal rents be settled for *Ghatwali*, *Atrika*, *Pradhani* and *Sadchakrandari* tenures in consequence of any change in the total rent roll of the villages comprising such tenures due to fair rent settlement. For rent-paying occupancy holdings Government considered that there was no necessity or justification for a general fair rent settlement under section 85(2)(*ii*) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

An important development was the launching of proceedings under section 112 of the Bihar Tenancy Act to reduce rents in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad and Monghyr. In order to help the raiyats to take advantage of this provision and to encourage them to file applications under it, Government reduced the rate of court-fees on all applications filed before the Revenue Officers from annas 12 to annas 4.

The recovery of the cost of settlement operations, which was estimated at Rs. 4,31,225-3-0, including Rs. 1,18,262-7-0, the share of the proprietor of Dhalbhum, proceeded smoothly in Tatanagar and Haludpukur and in about half of Ghatsila centre, but in the rest of the Pargana unsuccessful attempts were made to stop payment.

The importance and utility of survey and settlement records are being fully recognised by the courts and the public. But in the majority of the districts the value of these records is being impaired with the lapse of time, as with the exception of Saran and Champaran the records of all the districts of North Bihar were prepared about 40 years ago.

Revenue Cases.

The total number of suits of all classes instituted in the revenue courts of the Chota Nagpur Division decreased from 39,276 to 36,298 during the year. The decrease was said to be due to good crops and higher level of wages which the tenants were able to earn in the coal and mica mines. The number of applications filed for commutation of produce rent into cash rent in the Patna Division was 1,239 against 523, in the Tirhut Division 149 against 120 and in the Bhagalpur Division 41 against 31 in the previous year. Cases against landlords for failure to grant receipts increased from 89 to 169. Gaya alone had 126 cases against 46 in the preceding year.

Loans.

Rs. 4,19,641 was advanced by Government during the year under the Agriculturists Loans Act, the Bhagalpur Division receiving Rs. 21,195 the Tirhut Division Rs. 1,08,487, the Patna Division Rs. 56,796 and the Chota Nagpur Division Rs. 42,401. Rs. 23,447 was distributed under the Land Improvement Loans Act.

Treasure Trove.

There were six cases of treasure trove during the period under review, two each in the districts of Champaran and Monghyr and one each in the districts of Hazaribagh and Purnea. Of the cases in Champaran one concerned 70 copper coins of the time of the Kushan Emperors of 1st century (A.D.) and the other 24 silver coins of the year 1840. Only 12 of the copper coins were actually recovered and sent to the Patna Museum. In Purnea a stone image and two small idols were found in the Kishanganj subdivision.

Forests.

The problem of forest conservation under modern conditions of increasing population and demand for more timber and fuel has assumed a special importance. Recent scientific investigation has shown the various beneficial influences which forests exert in relation to climate, water conservation and erosion. In the province of Bihar the surviving forests are practically confined to Chota Nagpur. In North Bihar there are a few small areas of forests, some of which are now protected or reserved, along the northern fringe of the province. The total area of these forests is estimated at a little

over 250 square miles, of which 102 are reserved, and these are the only forests in North Bihar with an area of over 20,000 square miles. In South Bihar, the forests which once clothed the hill sides have already disappeared, and the surviving forests are so much cut about as to be of little value. With the disappearance of the forests erosion is taking place and floods tend to become more serious. In the whole of South Bihar, excluding the Santal Parganas, there are only 16 square miles of reserved forest. It is estimated that there are some 1,590 square miles of forest in this area. In Chota Nagpur considerable areas of forest still survive. But they have dwindled enormously during the last 50 years. This dwindling and destruction of the forests result in the erosion of the land surface. Erosion is an evil of comparatively slow growth but nonetheless is one of the major evils spreading desolation in its wake and giving rise to desert conditions. Hence the need for scientific control and management of forests. In this connection the following figures will be of interest (figures in square miles) :—

	Area.	Estimated area of forest unprotected and unreserved (much of this is scrub jungle).	Area demarcated and reserved or protected.
North Bihar	20,368	148	102
South Bihar (excluding the Santal Parganas) ...	16,508	1,590	16
Chota Nagpur (with the Santal Parganas) ...	32,472	8,250	2,629
Total ...	69,348	9,988	2,747

Thus there is only one square mile of reserved or protected forest to every 25 square miles of territory in the province, and only one-fourth of the surviving forests in the province is protected or reserved; whereas according to modern conception of forest conservancy 16 to 18 per cent of the area should be kept permanently under forests. That Bihar is worse off than any other province in India in this respect is shown by the following figures :—

Province.	Area of reserved and protected forest.	Percentage of reserved and protected forest to the area.
Central Provinces	19,410	19.4
Madras	16,399	11.5
Bombay	14,174	11.4
Bengal	7,213	9.8
United Provinces	5,187	4.9
Punjab	4,554	4.7
Bihar	2,747	3.9

These figures show how essential it is to save the surviving forests in the public interest, so that rights enjoyed by local people in the forests may be preserved to them as far as the forests are capable of supplying their need and that the forests may serve as a national asset.

The total area of all classes of forests in Bihar was 2,747 square miles during the year, comprising 1,144 square miles of Government reserved forests, 277 square miles of other reserved forests, 639 square miles of Government protected forests, 415 square miles other protected forests and 272 square miles of unclassed forests, including 3 square miles of unclassed State forests and other areas under the Forest Department. The policy of reserving private forests, founded as it is on the free will of the numerous landlords, was successfully continued. As a result of this policy applications made by the private owners in Ranchi and Singhbhum districts were for reservation of an area of 301,427 acres and more applications were forthcoming. Of the total area applied for only 19,094 acres were settled and reserved and 13,184 acres were protected up to the end of November 1936. The progress of reservation has not been over-rapid owing to the fact that the areas applied for are generally isolated and applications are made piece-meal. Proposals were under consideration during the year for expediting the reservation proceedings. Propaganda work by the Forest Department to educate the landlords to the importance of their forests and to put them under proper management was continued. It was unfortunate that the Bihar and Orissa Forest Association, which had done very useful work in this direction in the past, was compelled during the year to restrict its activities for want of funds.

In the sphere of silvicultural research much good work was done. The large scale contour irrigation experiment at Bamiaburu in the district of Singhbhum, which now extends to about 20 miles of trenches and holds up rain water on hill slopes for the benefit of the forest crop, continued to attract a good deal of attention. Great as its value is to forest growth, it will be of even greater value to village grazing lands by increasing the yield and quality of fodder crops. Cheap to execute, it only demands labour of the villager, while the necessary supervising staff can be very quickly trained to do the work. The increased area under contour irrigation, which now includes the Roro area, is having an increasing effect on cloud formation, and which in turn is believed to be reacting on local climate. The rise of 50 per cent in the price of the steel pole having stimulated the demand for the wooden pole, a stock of 600 poles for electrical purposes was collected and proofed

against white ant attack. A floating experiment was tried by driving a 20 feet channel through the Kechki field of rocks in the north Koel, and it is estimated that the whole river can be made floatable at a total cost of about Rs. 30,000 bringing Palamau timber, fuel and bamboos within easy reach of the people living in the Gangetic plain.

The total revenue from forests was Rs. 5,64,747 during the year against Rs. 4,80,051, in the previous year, while the total expenditure was Rs. 4,93,198 against Rs. 5,38,093 in the previous year.

Irrigation and flood protection.

One of Bihar's major problems is that of irrigation and in any scheme designed to increase the peasant's prosperity irrigation must have a prominent place. Canals are the main source of irrigation in the province. The important canal systems of the province are the Son canals in South Bihar and the Tribeni and Dhaka canals in North Bihar irrigating an area of 675,572 acres. The total length of the Son canals is 1,585 miles and these irrigate 564,599 acres, while the Tribeni canal irrigates 100,109 acres, the Dhaka canal 8,561 acres and the Teur (Madhuban) canal (which is a minor canal) 2,303 acres. The net revenue from the Son canals amounted to Rs. 19,02,545 during the year after an expenditure of Rs. 9,45,535 for extensions, improvements, maintenance and repairs, etc., while the total amount of water-rates realised from the other canals was Rs. 3,27,375, including Rs. 2,90,986 from the Tribeni canal, Rs. 28,270 from the Dhaka canal and Rs. 8,119 from the Teur canal, against the total expenditure of Rs. 77,929 on maintenance and repairs.

With a view to provide better facilities to the rate-payers of the Son and Champaran canals and to reduce corruption among the lower paid staff of the Department, a new system known as the " modified central system of collection " was introduced during the year as an experimental measure. Under the old system peons used to go to the villages and collect rates direct from the rate-payers, but under the new system collection is made directly by tahsildars at fixed centres which they visit periodically and the cultivators can call at these centres and pay their dues when convenient. The new system has since been extended to the remaining circles of the Son and Champaran canals. Under the new system the collection of water-rates was much more satisfactory than under the old.

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The Irrigation Department is also responsible for protective measures against floods by the maintenance of embankments and drainage systems. So far as the Tirhut embankment is concerned, very little damage occurred during the year except in the 25th mile, where some scour took place and protective measures had to be resorted to. Scour also took place in the 6th mile of Salempur-Cherki (Saran embankment) and protective measures were adopted in the 53rd and 60th miles of the embankment. A ring bandh was constructed and water did not spill over the country, as the river level remained below the country level. Some damage was also done to the Champaran embankment but fortunately water did not spill over the country.

The Tirhut Waterways Division, which was started as a temporary measure after the earthquake of 1934 for reconstruction work in connection with waterways, continued to function during the year. The activities of the Division during the year included a general survey and flood investigation in connection with Tirhut waterways, investigation into the easterly and westerly limits of peregrination of the Kosi river and the tendency of its spill channels, survey of the Bur Gandak from Motihari to its mouth, a length of 275 miles, and the draining of the Bharthua Chaur at an estimated cost of Rs. 46,041.

Buildings.

An important item in the building programme during the year was the extension of the existing council chamber with a view to provide sufficient accommodation for the new enlarged Assembly and the newly created upper chamber. The proposal involved the addition of two wings on either side of the existing building at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,39,474. The work was taken up in January 1937 and was in progress at the close of the year. The expenditure on the work during the year was Rs. 50,008. Another item was connected with the scheme for the construction of 31 additional blocks of paying-patient wards at the Itki Sanatorium. The necessity for increasing the accommodation for tubercular patients at Itki had long been apparent to Government but as the scheme for the extension of the Sanatorium at the sole cost of Government was not possible, the district boards and municipalities of the province were asked to contribute towards the capital cost of certain additional wards to be constructed at Itki. As a result of this appeal 9 district boards and 6 municipalities expressed their willingness to join the scheme and agreed to contribute the cost of constructing 31 additional wards at Rs. 5,500 per ward *plus*

an extra Rs. 250 which was required for furnishing each ward. The scheme was estimated to cost Rs. 1,20,900. The work was taken up during the year and Rs. 55,002 was spent on it. Earlier during the year good progress was made with reconstruction work of Government buildings damaged by the earthquake and a number of important buildings were completed in the various districts.

CHAPTER X.

Agriculture, livestock and co-operation.

Weather and crops.

The monsoon did not make a good beginning in June with a generally deficient rainfall. But precipitation in July was sufficient in all the districts except in Purnea and Singhbhum. In August the rainfall was generally deficient though heavy in some districts. The rainfall in September was well distributed throughout the province except Singhbhum and exceptionally heavy in some districts. In October rains were above the normal everywhere except in the Tirhut Division and Singhbhum. In November, light rain fell in parts of Gaya, Shahabad, the Santal Parganas and the districts of Chota Nagpur Division. The fall during December was above the normal in all the districts except in Singhbhum. In January, there was no rainfall, while it was above the normal everywhere in February. Light showers fell in March in all the districts except Patna, Saran, Darbhanga and Purnea. Floods in July, August and September adversely affected some standing crops in parts of the province, while the untimely rains with continued bad weather and hail-storm in February did a certain amount of damage to the standing *rabi* crops.

Autumn crops.

The condition of the *bhadai* crops in the early part of the season was generally fair to good except in Shahabad, Saran and Singhbhum, where the crops suffered due to excessive rain and floods. The outturn of *bhadai* crops was estimated at 91 per cent of the past ten years' average, while the total yield of maize decreased from 504,100 tons in 1935-36 to 485,500 tons and that of autumn rice increased from 610,700 tons to 663,400 tons.

Winter rice.

Winter rice, the most important crop in the province, was on the whole blessed with an exceptionally favourable year. The final estimate of the crop was 96 per cent on an area 9 per cent less than the normal, while the total yield increased from 36,717,600 cwts. in 1935-36 to 53,833,200 cwts. in 1936-37.

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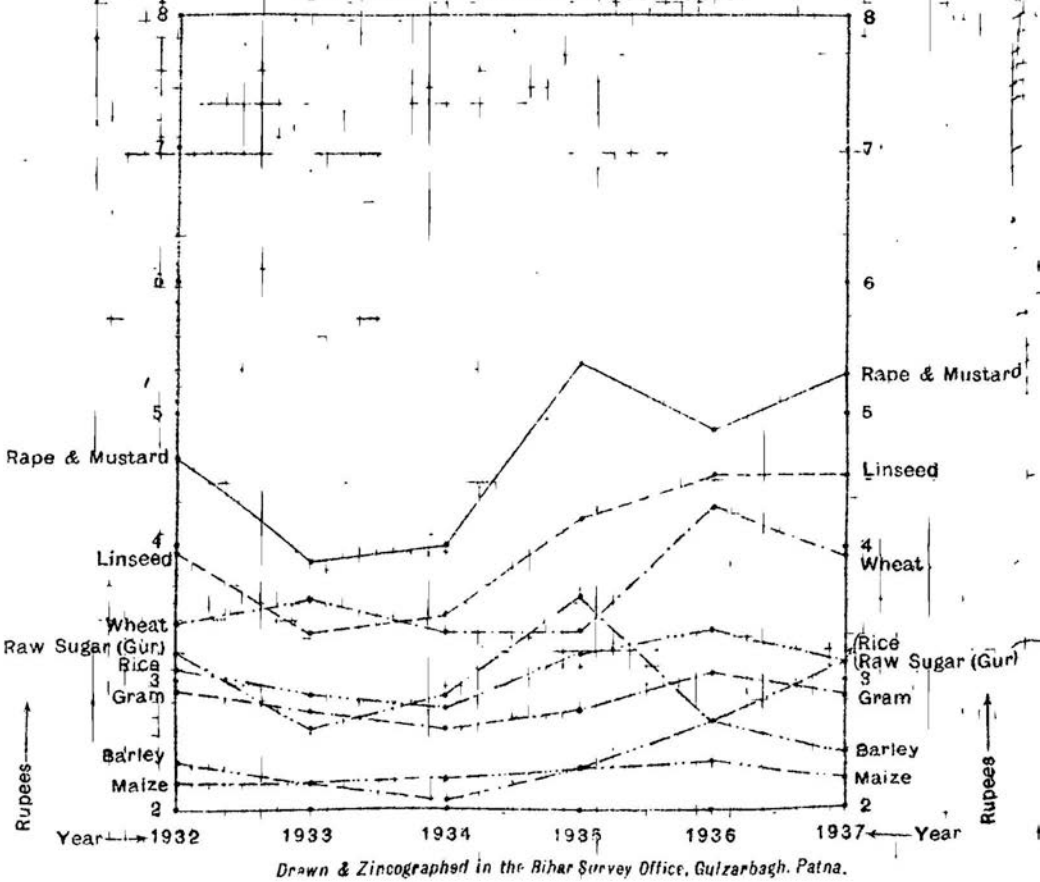
Graph showing price per standard maund in rupees of important agricultural commodities from 1932 to 1937



Drawn & Zincographed in the Bihar Survey Office, Gulzarbagh, Patna.

Bihar is the chief *rabi*-growing tract. The outturns of wheat and spring oil-seeds were estimated at 88 and 93 per cent, that of castor at 92 per cent and of the other *rabi* crops at 85 per cent.

Rabi crops.

The important jute district of the province is Purnea; but the crop is also grown on a small scale in Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur and the Santal Parganas. The weather conditions were favourable. The total area estimated to be under the crop was 211,600 acres (subsequently revised to 463,600 acres) on the result of the survey of the jute area in Purnea carried out during the year under orders of Government against 128,400 acres in the preceding year. The total yield accordingly was estimated at 495,000 bales (subsequently revised to 1,084,500 bales) as compared with 319,300 bales (revised) of the last year.

Jute.

The weather conditions were generally favourable in all the districts of the province and the condition of the sugarcane crop was fair to good everywhere. The total area under the crop according to District Officers' estimate increased from 447,200 in 1935-36 to 460,500 acres in the year under report. Actually there were not less than 493,600 acres under the crop and the yield not less than 151,203,100 maunds.

Sugarcane.

The important cotton growing districts with an acreage of more than 1,000 acres are Saran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, the Santal Parganas and the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division except Singhbhum. The condition of the crop was reported to be fair to good everywhere. The outturn of the crop was estimated at 6,436 bales compared with 5,736 bales of last year—an increase of about 12 per cent.

Cotton.

The total area cropped during the year was 24,487,300 acres against 23,824,100 acres in the previous year. The area under winter rice rose by 5 per cent, while the area under autumn rice showed a decrease of about 5 per cent and that under jute rose by 64 per cent.

Cropped area.

The prices of food-grains generally ruled higher than in the previous year except in the Santal Parganas and the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division. The price of rice showed a tendency to rise and that of maize and other staple food-grains was almost stationary compared

Prices and marketing.

with that of the last year. Good progress was made during the year with the scheme of agricultural marketing financed by the Government of India which is designed to assist the grower to realise full value for his agricultural produce. Exhaustive surveys of the marketing of various commodities such as rice, wheat, groundnuts, etc., were undertaken by the marketing staff. Material was also collected for a comprehensive report on markets, fairs and *hats* and co-operative marketing. As a result of two years' work by the marketing staff it was found that important steps necessary towards rationalised marketing consisted, among others, in the standardisation of weights and measures, the gradation of standards for the various commodities, the regulation of markets and the supply of the prevailing prices to the cultivator. The broad lines of development having thus been indicated, what is essential now is sustained effort and investigation to solve one of the fundamental problems connected with the prosperity of the rural population.

Agricultural research.

With the growth of scientific research the part which the Department of Agriculture plays in the economic life of the cultivator has gained more importance than ever before. The problem confronting the Department in Bihar is one of increased production and thus improving the position of the agriculturist by enabling him to obtain better yields from his lands. The activities of the Department have shown that this is both possible and practicable. Indeed, in the cultivation of sugarcane, an important cash crop, there has been a silent and almost imperceptible revolution in the method of cultivation which has not only rendered possible the rapid expansion of the sugar industry in the province but has resulted in considerable financial benefit to the growers. The research work of the Department is financed partly by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and partly from provincial revenues. The sugarcane and rice research schemes, which are the most important, are financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and have now completed their fifth year of working. Varietal trials under the diverse soil and climatic conditions of the province have established the superiority of sugarcane evolved as a result of research. Coimbatore 421 and Coimbatore 513 were outstandingly the best performers as main mid-season canes and are likely to prove rivals to Coimbatore 213. Other lines of research in connection with sugarcane cultivation are being conducted and because of the importance of the results achieved, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has agreed to the extension of this scheme

Improvements effected in sugarcane cultivation.

Work done at the rice research station at Sabour which is engaged in evolving improved varieties of paddy.

for a further period of 3 years at a cost of over Rs. 81,000. The rice research scheme deals with the most important crop of the province which covers nearly 12 million acres. The problems involved in its varietal, manurial and cultural improvements are vast and require continuous research. Botanical and agricultural survey of the rice grown in the province has been made and with a view to producing new economic types, experiments in hybridization have been undertaken. Physiological work on the crop has also been undertaken and the mineral requirements of the plant are being studied. The dormancy and viability of paddy seeds have formed an important line of investigation and it has been established that it is possible to retain the viability of the seed for long periods if steps are taken to reduce moisture.

The other schemes financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research include the cultivation of fruits, economic enquiry into the cost of sugarcane cultivation, investigation on the single-pan method of making Khandsari sugar, cigarette tobacco, analysis of indigenous fodder, barley and cattle industry and production and consumption of milk. The work on the fruit research scheme, which has been in operation for the last three years, has been confined to detailed studies on mangoes, lichies and papayas, which are the three most important fruits grown in the province. Investigations on the single-pan method of making Khandsari sugar have been completed, while two flue curing barns have been constructed for experiments on cigarette tobacco. Investigation into the malting and brewing qualities of Bihar barleys has shown that Bihar barleys from certain tracts can fetch a reasonably good price in English markets if exported in large quantities and in a clean condition.

The research work financed from provincial revenues is at present confined to the chemical, botanical and agricultural engineering sections of the Department. While financial difficulties have supervened in expanding these sectional activities, particularly in connection with mycological, entomological and livestock work, the staff and material available have been put to the best use. A temporary post of assistant entomologist has been sanctioned in connection with the expansion of sugarcane cultivation. The Agricultural Chemist is responsible for conducting manurial experiments on sugarcane and other crops. An elaborate experiment has been carried out at Sabour, Patna, Kanke and Pusa to obtain reliable data on the effect of different doses of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash applied at planting and earthing on the yield, sugar content and uptake of these elements by the crop.

An experiment to test the effect of mineral feeding on livestock was started during the year at Kanke with a view to determine the improvement in general health, growth and milk production. A detailed botanical description of the Sabour *rahars*, *kali* and *mung* was completed and selection work on early type of sunn-hemp, which yields very high class fibre, was continued. The engineering section continued to do useful work, having executed 189 borings, of which 135 were successful.

Agricultural farms.

The four Government experimental farms, one in each of the agricultural ranges of the province, namely, at Pusa, Patna, Sabour and Kanke, with their subsidiary farms, continued to do useful work in the testing of cultural methods, seeds, manures and implements in their respective areas. A new development during the year was the acquisition by the Provincial Government of the Pusa Farm, which was the home of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research now transferred to Delhi. The Pusa Farm will now serve as the central experimental and seed farm for the Tirhut Range. An attempt is being made to convert a part of the Pusa estate into paddy lands and it remains to be seen how far this experiment will be successful. All farms collaborated with the sectional and specialist officers in carrying out experimental work on the major problems of crops and soils. Special attention was devoted to sugarcane, wheat, tobacco, pulses, oilseeds and suitable fodder crops.

Propaganda.

The demonstration work of this Department is intended to bring home to the cultivator the fruits of agricultural research, but, unfortunately, the work in this direction has been limited for want of adequate staff. Nevertheless 15,167 field demonstrations were held during the year against 8,960 last year. As a result of these demonstrations 12,859 maunds of cane seed, 4,302 maunds of other seeds, mainly wheat, 2,296 maunds of oil-cakes and 870 maunds of chemical fertilisers, 328 improved iron ploughs, 154 improved hoes and 320 spare parts of these implements were sold by the Department in North Bihar; whereas 61,646 maunds of fertilizers were sold to the cultivators in South Bihar. A number of Central Banks and Co-operative Societies continued to take active interest in the dissemination of agricultural improvements amongst their society members. In order to make the Department's demonstration activity more effective, Government are considering a scheme for the concentration of the demonstration work in selected thanas.

Attending to village cattle—Field Veterinary Dispensary, Jagdishpur (Shahabad).

Agricultural education.

Five stipendiaries were recruited during the year and were posted to Pusa for practical training in agriculture, while one post-graduate student continued his training in the Chemical section of the Department. Facilities were provided to two sugar chemists employed by two sugar factories in the province to acquaint themselves with the technique of soil analysis work. The Central Farms continued to train overseers and Kamdars in practical agriculture.

Reorganisation.

After the separation of Orissa a new Sub-Range viz., Chota Nagpur Sub-Range with Ranchi as head-quarters was started comprising of the three districts of Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum, which previously formed a part of the Orissa Range. Later in the year the districts of Palamau and Hazaribagh were added to this Sub-Range, thereby bringing whole of Chota Nagpur into one administrative unit.

Cattle disease.

Almost all the principal contagious livestock diseases were prevalent in the province during the year. Rinderpest assumed virulent form in the districts of Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Palamau, where the death rate due to this disease was high both among cattle and buffaloes. The number of deaths from hæmorrhagic septicæmia was in excess over the previous year's figure. No case of anthrax was detected in the area north of the Ganges but it was reported from all the districts in the south of the river except Ranchi. The total number of animals affected by the various contagious diseases as reported was 40,675, of which 18,632 died as compared with 57,070 attacks and 7,923 deaths last year. The number of preventive inoculations increased by 26,455 over the last year's figure and as many as 504,219 animals were immunised against the various diseases. This impressive result was due mainly to the adoption of the cheap and more effective method of inoculation by "goat tissue virus".

Veterinary hospitals.

On account of the transfer of Orissa, the number of veterinary hospitals decreased from 33 to 29 during the year. 97,225 in and out-patients were treated at the 29 veterinary hospitals, as compared with 90,913 patients treated last year, an increase of 6,312. In addition, 20,875 castrations were performed at these hospitals, 135,357 old cases were treated as out-patients and 12,400 cases not brought to hospitals were supplied with medicines as compared with 21,247 castrations, 156,400 old cases and 14,792 patients supplied with medicines last year. Altogether 332,072 animals were treated by

the veterinary assistant surgeons on tour as well as the headquarters dispensaries as compared with 329,785 animals treated in the year 1935-36. Apart from these fresh patients, 30,928 old cases were also treated and 581 foot and mouth cases were supplied with medicines.

The Cattle Farm.

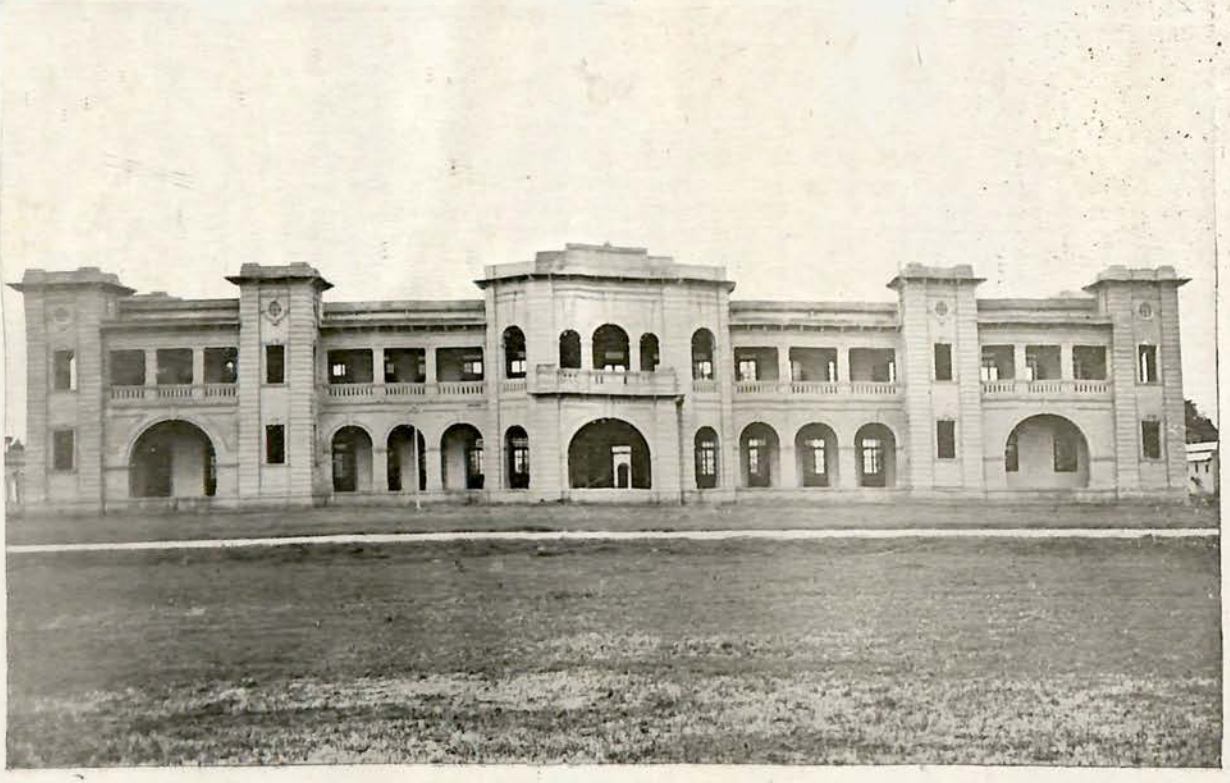
The Patna Cattle Breeding and Dairy Farm continued to prosper and public interest in the problem of live-stock improvement was greatly stimulated by the formation of district cattle improvement associations. The total strength of the herd at the Government cattle farm stood at 652 at the end of the year and the average number of cows in milk was 99. The total milk yield was 401,973 lbs. against 431,008 and 364,487 lbs. of milk was sold against 400,582 last year.

The total area of land cultivated by the farm was 328 acres. In addition to it over 139 bighas were leased out for a year at a rental of Rs. 1,981-10-6. Crops such as *juar*, maize, gram, oats, *khesari*, mustard and berseem, etc., were grown on the farm. The total outturn of monsoon and *rabi* crops was over 81,931 maunds, including green fodder and *bhusa* (chaff) to the value of Rs. 25,045-2-0, while the total expenditure on cultivation during the year was Rs. 11,015. The total revenue of the farm amounted to Rs. 62,503-9-8, including Rs. 25,045-2-0, the estimated receipts on account of fodder produced, while the total expenditure was Rs. 53,920-4-0 excluding Rs. 19,846-5-0 the value of home grown fodder consumed.

The Bihar Veterinary College.

The college entered upon its 7th session during the year. Twenty-nine new students were admitted against 36 in the preceding year and 50 old students returned for further studies, making the total 79 at the beginning. Six students left during the session reducing the total to 73. In all, 71 students appeared at the annual and diploma examination of the college, of whom 50 passed, 3 obtaining distinction in the diploma examination. 6 students, including 5 subordinate officers of this department and 1 from the Civil Veterinary Department of the Central Provinces, joined the post-graduate class at the college during the year.

The college continued to attract students from outside the province and the number of such students was 47 during the year. The total expenditure on the college during the year amounted to Rs. 82,672-5-3, while the total receipts for the same period were Rs. 16,121-10-11.



Bihar Veterinary College.

Propaganda and research.

During the year 6,109 lectures on different subjects relating to contagious live-stock diseases and methods of their prevention, management, and care of cattle and castration of bulls were delivered by departmental staff at fairs, gatherings and at rural dispensaries and middle schools.

The (Veterinary) Disease Investigation Officer, who is working under the disease investigation scheme financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, investigated into several diseases of importance and their treatment, while research work in the College Research Laboratory was continued.

Prevention of cruelty to animals.

During the year under review, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Bihar, continued to develop and work satisfactorily in almost all the important municipalities of the province. In the beginning of the year, there were nine inspectors on the roll of the Society. The total income of the Society was Rs. 22,612-1-6 against an expenditure of Rs. 10,904-9-0.

The number of persons sent up for prosecution under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was 2,008 and Rs. 11,701 realised from fines was credited to the Society's funds. The animal show of the Society was held in Patna on the 8th February 1937, when prizes amounting to Rs. 304 were given.

The Co-operative movement.

The chief form of co-operative activity which claimed attention during the year was the organisation of special types of societies such as village welfare societies, better living societies and cane-growers' societies.

The number of new co-operative societies registered during the year was 58 against 63 in the previous year. The total number of working societies of all kinds, including the Co-operative Federation and the Provincial Co-operative Bank, increased from 6,764 to 6,899. There was a deterioration in the classification of societies as the table of percentages below shows :—

		1934	1935	1936
A.—(Model)	...	1.6	1.2	1.0
B.—(Good)	...	10.7	8.6	7.1
C.—(Average)	...	71.5	72.3	71.3
D.—(Bad)	...	13.6	14.7	16.9
E.—(Hopeless)	...	2.6	3.2	3.7

The highest percentage of model and good societies was 8 per cent attained in the Aurangabad Central Co-operative Bank followed by Gopalgunj with 6.6 per cent, while the Dinapore Co-operative Union had the largest percentage of bad and hopeless societies, namely, 37 per cent. Cases of malpractices that came to light, though fewer, were still numerous. The department, therefore, vigorously pursued a policy of stopping corrupt practices and wasteful management.

The Provincial Co-operative Bank.

The Provincial Co-operative Bank comprising in its membership 101 banks and societies and 42 individuals completed the twenty-third year of its existence. The working capital of the Provincial Bank stood on the 1st January 1937 at Rs. 106.92 lakhs against Rs. 108.91 lakhs in the previous year. The decrease in working capital by Rs. 1.99 lakhs was due mainly to the repayment of two instalments amounting to Rs. 2.06 of the Government loan of rupees twenty lakhs taken at the beginning of 1935, of which only Rs. 15.87 lakhs remained outstanding at the end of the year. The subscribed share capital was Rs. 15.28 lakhs against Rs. 15.8 lakhs in 1935 and the paid-up share capital of the bank remained the same as in the previous year, namely, Rs. 6.11 lakhs. The deposits held by the bank on the 1st January 1937 amounted to Rs. 77.74 lakhs against Rs. 77.78 lakhs in the previous year. The average rate of interest for fixed deposits was 3.78 per cent against 4.15 per cent in the previous year. The bank continued to follow a cautious policy in the matter of fresh advances to central banks. The total amount of loans given during the year fell from Rs. 5.89 lakhs in 1935 to Rs. 3.22 lakhs in 1936, while the total amount in arrears from running central banks and societies was Rs. 41.97 as against Rs. 38.71 lakhs in the previous year.

With a view to help the central banks, the Provincial Co-operative Bank reduced the rates of interest on all loans advanced to them by 1 per cent in general with effect from 1st January 1936, and by 3 per cent to 4 per cent in the case of some particular weak banks. The statutory reserve of the Bank increased from Rs. 4.22 lakhs to Rs. 4.34 lakhs and its reserve for contingencies, which is a provision for bad debts, remained stationary at Rs. 1.90 lakhs. The bank made a profit of Rs. 94, including a sum of Rs. 57 brought forward from previous year.

Central Banks and Unions.

The number of Central Co-operative Banks and Unions remained stationary at 53. The paid-up share capital of these banks stood at Rs. 16.34 lakhs, while their working capital decreased by Rs. 3.90 lakhs, the total amount at the end of the year being Rs. 169.87 lakhs. The paid-up share capital and reserves constituted 9.6 and 7.8 per cent of the working capital, the corresponding percentages for the previous years being 9.4 and 7.6 respectively. The statutory reserve was Rs. 7,27,247 or 4.2 per cent of the working capital. The proportion of owned to borrowed capital was 14.7 as in the previous year. The total reserves of central banks and unions (including bad debts and other funds) amounted to Rs. 13.33 lakhs, while the total amount of statutory reserves of the central banks stood at Rs. 7.27 lakhs as against Rs. 7.20 lakhs in the previous year.

The deposits at these institutions fell from Rs. 93.68 lakhs to Rs. 87.99 lakhs or by 5.69 lakhs. Of the seventeen banks which showed increases in deposits amounting to Rs. 77, the most conspicuous was the Gopalganj Bank with an increase of Rs. 21. Of the total borrowed capital of Rs. 140.50 lakhs at the end of the year, deposits accounted for 62.6 per cent. Of Rs. 87.99 lakhs, Rs. 4.14 lakhs was held by Societies and the balance by individuals. A steady and disquieting decline was noticeable in repayment of loans by societies to Central Banks, the percentage of collection being 4.4 as against 6.3 in the previous year and 6.1 in 1934. The collection was below 5 per cent in 31 banks, while it ranged between 5 and 10 per cent in 15 banks. Only two banks recorded collection of more than 40 per cent, the highest percentage, namely, 48.7 being achieved by the Deoghar Central Co-operative Union followed by the Godda Central Union with 41.8. The total amount of interest collected during the year was Rs. 7.27 lakhs as against Rs. 8.84 lakhs last year, the percentage of collection being 18.4 as against 25.9 and 31.02 in 1935 and 1934 respectively. The combined percentage of collection of principal and interest also declined from 10.7 to 8, whereas the total amount of loans advanced by banks to societies decreased from Rs. 4.46 lakhs to Rs. 3.89 lakhs. The decline in these advances to societies was due to the inability of Central Banks to collect their dues and the inability in its turn of the Provincial Co-operative Bank to go on financing them in their present condition.

Rural development.

As in previous years, a number of banks encouraged agricultural improvements by popularising the use of improved agriculture implements, manure

pits, compost heaps and cultivation of sugarcane of improved varieties. The process of making manures out of dry sugarcane leaves was demonstrated in several societies in Bettiah area, while cultivation of sugarcane, groundnuts and Darjeeling potatoes was pushed on with appreciable success in a number of societies under different banks in Ranchi circle. The demonstration seed Lac farms at Paloul, under the Khunti Central Co-operative Union, grew lac for the first time and the yield was satisfactory.

The Central Banks could do little to meet the needs of the members in the matter of land improvements, as loans for assisting this work required long-term capital which was not available. However, the banks of Siwan, Sasaram, Muzaffarpur and Khunti advanced loans to societies for improvement of land and for boring wells for irrigation purposes. The number of banks that actually interested themselves in the formation of village sanitation and medical relief was not very large. Members of the Sheorajpur and Pakarikar society in Bettiah organised a rural uplift and health society and stocked Homeopathic medicines for free distribution. In the Darbhanga district three Ayurvedic dispensaries were maintained partly from the contribution of members of Co-operative Societies and partly from the aid given by the District Board. Some societies of Samastipur, Purnea and Jehanabad took special interest in keeping the village lanes clean and in the disinfection of wells and distribution of preventive medicines during the outbreak of the cholera epidemic.

The financial strain caused a set-back in the promotion of cottage industries. However, some members of societies evinced keen interest in starting associations which trained students in weaving and eri-rearing. The Khunti Home Industries trained students in weaving and produced different varieties of textile goods. The Ranchi weavers' stores also produced coloured *pardas* of good quality. Some banks and societies devoted their attention to matters of education. The Barh Bank maintained 10 *pathsalas*, while in the Ranchi Central Bank area there were 23 *pathsalas*, lower primary schools and *maktabs*. In Begusarai area two village primary schools were run by the combined efforts of the members and the non-members of the villages. The Purnea Bank sanctioned grants to two boys' and girls' schools, and the Rohika Central Union maintained 26 primary schools and started one *maktab* and a lower primary school.

A number of rural welfare centres continued to do valuable work. The Lalmati village welfare society in Rajmahal area did rural uplift work and was able to organise two new welfare societies at Jairam Danga and Munda mala. A number of societies in Sewan dug manure pits and many societies constructed bandhs to prevent flood water from entering their villages. The Kurthaul welfare society in the Patna Circle maintained a middle English school, a girls' school and a night school. A *pacca* well was also constructed by joint efforts of the members. There were 14 village welfare societies in Ranchi, of which the Masmano society did good work. The members of this society repaired the village road and cleared the side drains of the road. In the Pokharia welfare society the members constructed *pacca* wells and added a verandah to their school building, while in Raghunathpur and Koko the members strengthened the village *bandh*.

Rural development regained fresh impetus by the launching of the scheme for starting four village welfare centres in the province to be financed out of the Government of India grant. These centres were started at Manair in the Patna Division, Silout in the Tirhut Division, Kuru in the Chota Nagpur Division and Mihijam in the Bhagalpur Division, each in charge of a Rural welfare officer and village guide. Each centre comprises a group of 4 or 5 villages selected after a careful survey of local conditions. An important feature of the scheme is the formation of a Rural Reconstruction or Welfare Committee in each village through which the whole programme is being carried out. The initial programme at these centres included adult education, village sanitation and agricultural improvements.

Societies.

The number of working agricultural societies of all classes increased by 194, the total number at the end of the year being 6,687. The membership of Societies increased by 3,131 and stood at 164,176. The paid-up share capital and the working capital amounted to Rs. 11.67 lakhs and Rs. 152.44 lakhs respectively, at the end of the year as against Rs. 11.94 lakhs and Rs 154.32 lakhs in 1935. The decrease is attributable to liquidation of a number of societies and the inability of the Central Bank to make adequate advances. There was an increase by Rs. 17 in the statutory reserve, which stood at Rs. 27.12 lakhs. The amount of other funds also increased by Rs. 22 to Rs. 1.03 lakhs. The owned capital amounted to 26.1 per cent of the working capital, the corresponding percentage in 1935 being 25.7. The total amount of loans advanced

to members during the year was Rs. 3.67 lakhs as against Rs. 4.08 lakhs in the previous year.

Among the agricultural societies, cane-growers' societies under the new scheme became very popular and there was an increasing demand for fresh organisation, particularly in North Bihar. This new scheme for the organisation and operation of cane-growers' co-operative societies was sanctioned by Government in February 1936, and came into force during the year under review. The cost of this scheme was met by the Government of India out of Sugar Excise Duty. The main object of this scheme is to organise the marketing of sugarcane, on co-operative basis, for the consumption of sugar mills, so that the grower may get an adequate price for his cane. This new scheme worked both in North and South Bihar. The total number of cane-growers' co-operative societies at the end of the year was 123 and the membership of the societies stood at 1,829.

The number of primary credit societies with unlimited liability increased by 88 to 6,533. Their working capital and reserves stood at Rs. 150.77 lakhs and Rs. 26.76 lakhs as against Rs. 152.64 lakhs and Rs. 26.34 lakhs, respectively, in 1935. The membership of such societies increased from 151,117 to 152,727, but the average membership per society remained almost stationary, being 23.3 as against 23.4 in the previous year. The amount of loans advanced during the year was Rs. 3.56 lakhs as against Rs. 3.98 lakhs in 1935. The cost of management decreased by Rs. 91.

The number of non-agricultural working societies increased by 16, the total number at the end of the year being 210 with a membership of 30,829 as against 28,925 in the previous year. The increase in the number of societies as also in membership, was mainly in the village welfare societies.

In the domain of non-agricultural societies, the weavers' societies for depressed classes deserve special mention. With the grant-in-aid from the Government of India necessary staff was employed for the development of handloom industry. This staff supervised the work of the members of the weavers' societies. There were altogether 14 societies for depressed classes. The Hazaribagh Mehtar Toli co-operative society worked satisfactorily and maintained a school for the children of the sweepers. Of the other societies, which worked fairly well during the year were the Lal Bazar Mehtar Toli co-operative society in Bettiah and the Gudri Mehtar co-operative society in Muzaffarpur.

The Co-operative Federation.

The annual session of the Federation Congress was held at Bhagalpur in the month of February 1937. The Federation Council met four times at Patna during the year. The Federation received subsidies from Government, amounting to Rs. 52,569 for Bihar and Rs. 8,379 for Orissa. The assessment of contribution on banks and societies for audit amounted to Rs. 1,63,441 and arrear dues to Rs. 2,55,619. The total dues from working societies, were Rs. 4.19 lakhs, of which Rs. 1.24 lakhs was realised during the year. The total actual receipts of the Federation during the year were Rs. 1,98,821, whereas the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,94,654. With a view to balance its budget, drastic steps were taken by the Federation to reduce its expenditure. The Federation maintained 79 local auditors for the audit of primary societies and 23 Assistant and Junior Auditors for the audit of central banks and non-agricultural societies with limited liability.

With the funds available out of the Government of India's allotment for co-operative training and education, including the grant from Provincial revenues, a training institute with a principal and two lecturers was established. The institute will serve as a useful training ground for field workers in the co-operative movement.

As a result of the formation of the new province of Orissa bifurcation of the Federation was effected, the membership of the Orissa societies having ceased from the 1st April 1937, and the assets and liabilities found lying in or due from societies and banks in Orissa having been handed over to the Orissa banks.

CHAPTER XI.

Commerce and Industry.

General.

For the great bulk of the population of Bihar agriculture continues to be the basic occupation. Over 80 per cent of the population depends on agriculture, while only 7.8 per cent on industries. This abnormally excessive dependence of the population on agriculture and the low productivity of the people suggests a planned co-ordination of agriculture with cottage industries and diversification of production on the basis of improved technique to relieve the pressure on land and to raise the productive capacity of the people. Besides agriculture and cottage industries, the mining of minerals, the manufacture of metals and the manufacture of white sugar are the three main organised industries of the province. The real wealth of the province, however, lies in the vast mineral resources of Chota Nagpur and the industries which are developing there. The immense potentialities of Bihar's mineral resources are indicated by the recent geological description of Eastern Singhbhum as " India's Northern Ontario ". But these vast mineral resources need proper exploitation both in the interests of the Government and the people of the province.

Bihar takes the next place of importance among the sugar-producing provinces of India. The production of white sugar in this province represents about 29 per cent of the total production in India. The importance of the agricultural aspect of the industry can be judged from the fact that a total payment of approximately Rs. 2½ crores was made to the cane-growers for the cane purchased and crushed by the factories during the year under review. The number of factories rose from 12 in 1931-32 to 35 during the year and nearly 36 lakh tons of cane was crushed by these factories. As an outcome of this extraordinary development of and boom in the sugar industry, there was considerable increase in the area under sugarcane cultivation. The crop was also much above normal during the year. These two factors constituted to bring almost a glut of sugarcane. The imposition of sugar excise duty and fall in the price of sugar though caused somewhat of an uneasiness among factory owners, they did their best to deal with the situation by crushing a good deal more of sugarcane than they did in normal years.

Among the other important industries which supplied employment were the handloom industry, silk industry, lac industry, tinplate industry, wire and nail industry, electric cable industry, engineering works, milling industry and sabai grass industry. The increased duty on silk yarn adversely affected the local silk industry which had come to depend largely on cheap imported spun silk. There was, however, an increasing demand for indigenous tasar silk in consequence, but the silk weavers cannot get adequate relief unless there is a corresponding increase in the duty on foreign piece-goods. The total production of shellac increased from 1,105,000 maunds in 1935 to 1,622,500 maunds in 1936 and the total shipments rose from 487,801 cwts. in 1935 to 936,406 cwts. in 1936-37. This increase was largely accounted for by the greater consumption in America, imports by Japan and Russia and a general tendency in most countries to carry adequate stocks against future emergencies. The average price of all lac product for the year fell from Rs. 23 per maund last year to Rs. 20, while the average price of shellac was Rs. 22 per maund in 1936-37 as against Rs. 26 in 1935-36. The steady increase in demand, a corresponding rise in the production of stick-lac and the absence of wide fluctuation in price augur well for the future of the industry. During the year the output of the Tinplate Company of India, Limited, Golmuri, increased to 56,450 tons from 55,157 in the previous year. In spite of keen competition in the first-half of the year from foreign countries, especially Belgium and Japan, the Indian Steel and Wire Products, Limited, was able to hold its own. Later in the year owing to world shortage of steel the position of the company was unchallenged. The Indian Cable Company made further progress during the year and the demand for electrical products increased considerably. The rice milling showed some improvement but this was, however, checked on account of competition with the Bengal rice, which being cheaper, was preferred by exporters to other provinces. The working of the oil milling industry showed some signs of improvement in the latter part of the year; but as the rise in the price of oil-seeds was not in proportion to the price of oil, the margin of profit to the mill-owner was small. The export of sabai grass to the Titagarh Paper Mills increased considerably, the total quantity despatched being 265,000 maunds during the year against 241,607 maunds in the previous year.

Coal.

The year 1936 proved to be one of further depression in the mining industry although in the later months there were signs of an improved outlook

with the looking up of prices of coal and coke. The output of coal fell from 12,409,497 tons in 1935 to 12,015,205 tons in 1936.

The figures of output in 1936 for the principal coalfields of Bihar were as follows :—

		Tons.
Manbhum :—		
Raniganj coalfields (part of)	...	569,875
Jharia ditto	...	8,737,713
Hazaribagh :—		
Jharia coalfields (part of)	...	92,431
Bokaro ditto	...	1,417,227
Giridih ditto	...	698,133
Karanpura coalfields ...	...	389,999
Ranchi :—		
Karanpura coalfields (part of)	...	6,084
Santal Parganas :—		
Jainty coalfields ...	...	36,022
Raniganj coalfields (part of)	...	67,721
Total	...	12,015,205

The output of the Jharia coalfields decreased by about 4½ per cent; the Raniganj coalfields by about 0.6 per cent, the Karanpura coalfields by more than 6 per cent and the Giridih coalfields by 1½ per cent from the preceding year. The only increase in the output was in the Bokaro coalfields by 6½ per cent from the preceding year.

In the Jharia coalfields the value per ton of coal put into wagons was Rs. 3-2-4 as compared with Rs. 2-10-8 in the neighbouring coalfields of Bengal. There was an increase of annas 10.4 in the average value per ton of coal in Bihar.

An embargo on the export of coal from South Africa, a greatly improved demand for coal from Railways and industries following the general industrial recovery and a shortage of labour resulting

from the bumper rice harvest in the previous year had the effect of raising prices to an economic level.

The demand of coal was good throughout the year. Towards the end there was a tendency towards shortage of supplies and prices temporarily increased considerably. The trade export was assisted by an additional eight annas rebate for coal exported to ports other than Indian ports and this rebate enabled the Indian coal trade to regain the Railway contract of the Government of Ceylon of over 150,000 tons. The stocks of coal at the collieries at the end of the year were less than at the beginning and have been considerably depleted since, so that it is anticipated that conditions favouring an increase in the price of coal may eventuate during the current year.

For the greater part of 1936 the supply of labour was ample for requirement except, as is the case almost every year, for short intervals during the cultivation and harvest seasons. Towards the end of the year owing to an exceptionally good harvest, labour became scarce. This scarcity led in some instances to an increase of wages paid to miners. To overcome the shortage of labour, recruiting organisations were revived, wages were increased and bus services for transporting miners to and from their homes were arranged. The complete exclusion of women from the underground working of mines on 1st October 1936, had no appreciable effect on raisings. A general unrest of labour took place before women were excluded from the mines but by increasing the wages of miners strikes were avoided. The daily rates of miners, loaders and other workers showed little variation from the previous year. Relations between employers and labour continued to be good. The total number of workmen employed in the coal industry was 94,477, of whom 81,521 were males and 12,956 females. The number of women employed underground was well below the permissible percentage. In many coal-mines very few women were employed. There was a decrease of 3 pies in the wages of underground miners in the Jharia coalfields but an increase to the same extent in the wages of miners working in open workings. The number of coal-mines which worked during the year was 340 as compared with 276 in the previous year.

The Jharia Mines Board of Health and the Jharia Water Board continued to work satisfactorily. The death rate per thousand persons was lower both in the Raniganj and Jharia Mining Settlements.

The Indian Soft Coke Cess committee continued its efforts to popularise the use of soft coke as a domestic fuel. Arrangements

were made to inspect loading at collieries and experiments were carried out for manufacturing soft coke by an improved method.

During the last two months of the year under report there was a shortage of soft coke and prices rose temporarily to a high level. Approximately 915,719 tons of soft coke were despatched from the coalfields during the year as compared with 888,493 tons during the previous year. Of the total output, 866,611 tons were despatched from mines in the Jharia coalfields.

Iron.

The total output of iron ore from the Singhbhum field, the most important in the country, was 1,375,214 tons during the year as compared with 1,155,965 tons during the previous year. The number of persons employed during the year rose from 7,594 to 12,615. There was an ample supply of labour available at the iron ore mines and there was a slight increase in the daily wages of miners. There were no strikes or epidemics during the year and the general health of the workers was good.

Mica.

The total output in the mica fields of the province situated chiefly in the Hazaribagh district with the bordering areas of the Gaya, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Manbhum districts, rose from 48,674 cwts. to 71,739 cwts., of which 52,348 cwts. were mined in Hazaribagh and the remainder in the other districts of the province mentioned above. The number of persons employed in and about the mica mines was 20,133. In the mica industry the world demand increased considerably and stocks were reduced to nil. Besides this, the demand for certain sizes and qualities exceeded production. The effect of this was noticeable in the upward movement of prices. The supply of labour was insufficient to meet demands and wages were increased. Women excluded from coal-mines in the Giridih subdivision were able to find congenial employment in the splitting and dressing of mica.

Copper.

The Indian Copper Corporation, Limited, with its centres at Mosabani and Dhobani in the Singhbhum district was responsible for the entire output of copper ore in British India. The total extraction of copper ore rose from 350,801 tons to 357,194 tons during the year. The number of persons employed in the extraction of copper ore was 2,878 against 2,784 in the preceding year. A minor strike occurred in October, 1936, on the question of rates of pay but the grievances were quickly redressed and the strike terminated; but there was continued unrest.

Other minerals.

The following table gives details of the other important minerals produced in the province :—

Minerals.	District where found.	Output in tons in 1935.	Output in tons in 1936.
Manganese ore ..	Singhbhum	16,667	11,722
Chromite ore ..	Do.	11,397	7,053
Steatite ..	Singhbhum and Hazaribagh	1,353	1,699
Slate	Monghyr	1,123	462
Limestone ..	Shahabad	283,102	329,860
Stone (chiefly igneous rock).	Gaya, Santal Parganas Shahabad and Singhbhum	636,666	386,442
Sandstone ..	Shahabad	27,451	19,908
Gravel ..	Singhbhum	9,977	7,074
Fireclay ..	Manbhum	2,060	..
China Clay ..	Bhagalpur and Singhbhum	7,272	9,661
Gold	Manbhum and Singhbhum	33 ounces	82 ounces (the total output of British India excluding Burma).

Factories.

The number of factories on the register at the commencement of the year under review was 372, of which 328 were in Bihar and 44 in Orissa. Nine factories were added to the register during the year. Of the new registrations seven were perennial and two seasonal. No factory was removed from the register during the year under report. Of the 337 factories on the register 63 factories remained closed throughout the year and of the 274 factories that were working, 206 were perennial and 68 seasonal. The average number of days worked during the year by perennial and seasonal factories was 270 days and 165 days respectively.

The number of persons employed in the factories during the year was 86,676 as against 86,327 in Bihar and Orissa in 1935 or against 83,969 in Bihar alone, which is an increase of 3.2 per cent. The increase, besides that consequent on the new registrations, was mainly spread over the industries of sugar manufacture, jute spinning and weaving, general engineering and shellac manufacture.

The industries of minerals, metals and railway workshops showed small decrease in number of persons employed. The rates of wages in factories remained much the same. They ranged from an average of 6 annas a day for unskilled male adult labour and some three times that sum for skilled labour to about Rs. 4-8-6 a day for supervisors of skilled labour. Female unskilled labour earned about 5 annas a day and child labour about 3 annas a day. The number of women workers during the year under report was 5,565 as against 6,517 in Bihar and Orissa in 1935 or against 5,800 in Bihar alone. The small decrease appears to be the result of periodical fluctuation and was not confined to any particular industry.

The number of adolescents employed during the year was 332 as against 253 in Bihar and Orissa in 1935 or against 218 in Bihar alone, which is an increase of about 52 per cent, whereas the number of children employed during the year was 208 as against 207 in Bihar and Orissa in 1935 or against 201 in Bihar alone.

The number of factories inspected during the year was 249 as against 293 in Bihar and Orissa in 1935 or 254 in Bihar alone and the total number of inspections and visits of all classes of factories in the year was 464 as against 519 in Bihar and Orissa in 1935 or 475 in Bihar alone.

The health of workers was normal and no epidemic and no case of industrial disease was reported. The provision of the Factories Act and the rules thereunder in respect of sanitation and supply of drinking water are generally complied with. Considerable improvement was effected in both ventilation and lighting in factories during the year under review. The problem of mitigation of dust and other impurities generated in certain classes of work continued to receive attention. In two concerns mechanical fans for abstracting the dust generated were ordered and in one case cowls and chimneys were required to be fitted over forges to take off the smoke generated.

Safeguarding of machinery and the adoption of other safety measures in factories continued to receive attention. The Safety Committees, which were formed, took active interest in the safety of the workers and succeeded in reducing the accident rate in their works. The total number of accidents during the year was 2,945 as against 2,884 in Bihar and Orissa in 1935 or against 2,858 in Bihar alone. Of this number 495 were serious accidents against 602 in the previous year and 23 were fatal against 36. The number of fatal accidents in the sugar industry showed a further decline and fell from 6 in the previous year to 2 during the year under review.

In the iron and steel industry there was no change in the number of fatal accidents and in the railway workshops they dropped from 5 to 2.

Registered Companies and Associations.

The number of companies limited by shares rose to 133 in 1936-37, against 126 in 1935-36. The total authorised capital of these companies was Rs. 9,07,16,350 against Rs. 5,69,98,850 in 1935-36, while the total paid-up capital was Rs. 3,07,38,090 against Rs. 2,41,23,102. 24 such companies were registered during the year, of which 8 were registered as private companies. 13 of these companies were voluntarily wound up during the year and 4 were struck off the register under section 247 of the Indian Companies Act of 1913, as amended by the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act of 1936.

The number of foreign companies increased from 30 to 31 during the year. Life Assurance Companies incorporated in the province remained at five, and the number of Provident Insurance Societies was three only.

Four new societies were registered during the year under Act XXI of 1860, bringing the total number in the province to 67.

Under the Indian Partnership Act of 1932, the total number of firms registered during the year under review was 67 against 86 registered during the preceding year, of which one was dissolved.

The total number of registered trade unions at the end of the year remained only 5. No new trade unions were registered, nor was certificate of any registered trade union withdrawn or cancelled during the year.

Boilers.

Prior to the 1st April, 1936, the inspection of boilers in Bihar and Orissa was in the hands of a Joint Inspectorate for Bengal and Bihar and Orissa working under the control of the Government of Bengal. But a separate Inspectorate for Bihar and Orissa came into being on the 1st April, 1936. Dhanbad was selected as the headquarters of the Chief Inspector on account of its proximity to the Bihar coalfields in which half of the total number of boilers in the province of Bihar are situated. About 1,400 boilers are inspected from this centre, which includes in its area the whole of the coalfields, the districts of Bhagalpur, Purnea, Monghyr and Santal Parganas and the territory along the railway from Dehri-on-Sone to Dhanbad. The other two centres of the Inspectors of Boilers are Jamshedpur and Patna. From Jamshedpur centre is undertaken the inspection of

boilers in the whole of Orissa, and the districts of Singhbhum, Ranchi, Palamau and portions of Hazaribagh and Purulia. From Patna centre is undertaken the inspection of boilers in the districts of Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Patna. The Inspector at Patna also undertakes the survey of inland steam vessels at the ghats and dockyard near Patna, whereas the Inspectors stationed at Dhanbad and Jamshedpur undertake the survey of inland steam vessels at Dehri-on-Son and Mokameh and those in the province of Orissa respectively in addition to his duties under the Indian Boilers Act. About 350 boilers are inspected and 35 vessels surveyed from this centre.

During the year under review the fees for boilers and steamers amounted to Rs. 1,16,486-3-0 and Rs. 4,987-0-0 respectively. The total number of boilers inspected during the year was 2,444.

Electricity.

At the close of the year eleven licensed and four sanctioned undertakings were in operation. The most recent one was at Ranchi which started up during the last quarter of the year. The eleven licensed undertakings at work represented a capital expenditure of Rs. 1,02,27,143 and during the year they sold 33,120,338 units. Of the eleven licensed undertakings actually at work six were able to pay dividends but all the others incurred substantial losses and the Giridih undertaking is in process of liquidation. On the whole the supply of electricity was maintained satisfactorily. During the year there were several partial and two total interruptions of supply due to floods and damage to supply lines during storms, and with a view to guarding against flood damage Government called upon those licensees to adopt protective measures.

At the close of the year Government had under consideration applications for licences for the towns of Purulia, Chaibassa, Dhanbad, Jharia and Sahebganj, while various parties were enquiring into the possibilities of such places as Hazaribagh, Motihari, Katihar, Purnea, Jugselai and Chirkunda. During the year 20 electrical accidents were reported, of which three were fatal, five serious and twelve minor ones. About October 1936 a new cement factory containing extensive electrical equipment and situated in the Ranchi district commenced to work. Throughout the year the use of electrical energy by Messrs. Tata Iron and Steel Company, Jamshedpur, continued to expand. In fact the application of electricity to industries in Bihar has now been largely expanded. In the various mines alone in Bihar the aggregate horse power of motors installed amounts to 60,982, while in Jamshedpur *plus* the rest of the province this figure must be exceeded very substaintially.

Indeed Jamshedpur possesses what is claimed to be the largest electric motor in the British Empire, it being of 7,000 B. H. P. normal rating.

Cottage Industries.

The hand-weaving industry, which is the most important cottage industry in Bihar, continued to receive increasing attention and encouragement at the hands of Government and technical assistance was provided through the demonstration parties stationed throughout the province. Though the net import of cotton yarn, all of which is consumed by the hand-loom weavers of the province, was the same as in the previous year (over 30 million pounds), there was remarkable improvement in the texture of woven fabrics and the variety of patterns produced. The superiority of these fabrics was demonstrated at the All-India Hand-weaving Exhibition held at Lucknow, at which Bihar won the first prize for the best device connected with hand-weaving and a number of medals and certificates of merit for its textile exhibits.

After the separation of Orissa in April, 1936, the demonstration parties of Cuttack and Sambalpur were financed and supervised by the Director of Development of that province, and the Government of Bihar strengthened the demonstration staff of this province by sanctioning the appointment of 2 new parties, one for the districts of Manbhum and Singhbhum and the other for the Santal Parganas. The demonstration parties (seven in number) rendered valuable assistance to the hand-loom weavers in the interior in solving technical problems and in introducing among them improved looms and appliances and the weaving of new patterns of cloth. During the year as many as 1,922 fly-shuttle looms, 99 dobbies, 134 warping drums, 6 jacquard machines and 6 power-looms were fitted up and worked. The use of improved looms was demonstrated in 287 new villages. Demonstration parties for dyeing, wool-weaving and rope-making also did good work.

The commercial section for the manufacture of purdahs showed further progress during the year under review. The value of goods manufactured by the hand-loom weavers under the supervision of 11 co-operative societies and 30 master weavers increased from Rs. 97,217 in 1935-36 to Rs. 1,23,230 in the year 1936-37, while the sale of finished goods increased to Rs. 1,68,047 from Rs. 1,32,173 in the previous year, i.e., by about 27 per cent and that of raw materials to Rs. 54,092 from Rs. 41,751. The popularity of these textiles in foreign markets is growing from year to year. The sales both in Europe and New Zealand showed an increase by about 29 per cent from Rs. 89,017 in 1935-36 to

Rs. 1,15,084 during the year. While the New Zealand sales were more than double of the previous year, those in Europe increased by 10 per cent. On account of this increased demand for Bihar textiles, the Provincial Government enhanced their grant for the purchase of raw materials and finished goods from Rs. 1,44,200 to Rs. 1,67,700 during the year. The gross profit earned during the year amounted to Rs. 38,089 against Rs. 29,587 in the year 1935-36.

The marketing organisation financed by the Government of India successfully completed the second year of its working. The grant from the Central Government was utilised mainly to give wider publicity to hand-woven textiles of Bihar through sales depots, commercial travellers and advertisements, and to conduct an experiment in the manufacture of hand-woven cloth through co-operative societies and master weavers and the finishing of these staple cotton goods in a central factory with a view to determine and to establish to what extent hand-woven fabrics can compete with the mill-woven. The total expenditure incurred under the Hand-loom Marketing Organisation amounted to Rs. 48,957 during the year and was met from the grant received from the Government of India.

The growth of the sericulture industry was uniformly maintained under the Government of India subvention scheme. The eri-seed supply station at Ranchi completed the second year of its existence. Out of a total production of 1,309 ounces of disease-free seed eggs at the station 1,254 ounces were distributed free to the rearers of Bihar and 43 ounces to those of Orissa, and 12 ounces at a small charge to the rearers of other parts of India. Four broods of mulberry worms were also reared and 285 layings of seed eggs were supplied to rearers. The output of cocoons was 83 seers of eri (dry) and one seer of mulberry. A party of 5 eri-rearing instructors did useful work in the districts of Manbhum, Purnea, Darbhanga, Daltonganj and Champaran by distributing seed eggs and training the agriculturists in the rational methods of rearing eri-silk worms and the spinning of cocoons.

Another industry, which the Department of Industries has been trying to encourage, is the tasar industry. The Government of India having approved of a four-year scheme for improving the quality of tasar silk, and sanctioned a sum of Rs. 5,484 in 1936-37 for starting a tasar seed supply and research station at Chaibassa, the necessary staff was appointed during the year and a beginning was made with the scheme. 1,438 layings of disease-free tasar

eggs were distributed to rearers of the province, and experiments were made with a view to domesticate the wild tasar worms so as to be able to control breeding and provide proper food plants for a particular species.

Pisciculture.

The progress of pisciculture in the province has been fairly satisfactory in spite of the handicap of the limited staff and organisation due to financial stringency. During the year under review 272,100 fry were distributed against 331,000 in the previous year. The decrease is due to the fact that the two centres at Cuttack and Sambalpur in Orissa passed into the administration of that Government. Besides the Patna Centre in Bihar, a new centre was successfully started at Ranchi for the development of pisciculture in Chota Nagpur. The quantity of fry supplied from Patna centre was 193,500 against 164,500 in the previous year and from Ranchi centre for the period under review was 78,600. While the supply from the Patna Centre increased by about 18 per cent, the supply in the province as a whole increased by about 66 per cent. A notable feature of the supply from the Patna centre was that a consignment of 9,500 fry was sent to the Government of Bombay through an officer of their Fisheries Department who was specially deputed for that purpose and another 5,000 fry was sent to Fatehpur in the United Provinces for the District Co-operative Bank there. The experiment in the transport of spawn from the Ganges and the Sone in Patna to Ranchi, which was conducted in the light of experience gained in the previous year, proved a great success and the Ranchi centre was able to supply the requirement of that area. This successful experiment in the transport of spawn over a long distance opens out the possibility of another aspect of the industry and that is the utilisation of a natural product of the province which is largely running out of it with the downward flow of the river. During the year under review there has been a considerable fall in the export of fish from the province on account of the separation of Orissa which was responsible for about half of the total export, the export during the year being 55,113 maunds against 100,112 maunds in the preceding year.

State aid to Industries.

After a lapse of five years, a small provision of Rs. 4,000 was made in the budget estimate for the year under review with a view to advance loans to small industrialists not exceeding Rs. 500 in any one case. Six formal applications for small loans amounting in aggregate to Rs. 4,500 were received and considered by the

Board of Industries but the loan could not be advanced during the year as the proposal regarding reduction of the rate of interest charged on loans and acceptance of security, personal or otherwise, of a third party was under the consideration of Government. Out of Rs. 38,384-14-7 due for realisation of dues outstanding under the Act during the year, only Rs. 31,692-4-3 could be realised.

Industrial Education.

The demand for industrial education is ever on the increase, as the number of applications for admission into the technical and industrial institutions of the province far exceeded their capacity during the year. The number of Government and aided technical and industrial institutions decreased from 12 and 11 to 10 and 9 due to the transfer of institutions situated in the old Orissa Division to the new province of Orissa. The number of pupils attending the various technical and industrial institutions during the year was 2,162 as against 2,327 in the previous year. The grants-in-aid made to different institutions amounted to Rs. 18,564, while the total expenditure on technical and industrial institutions both Government and aided amounted to Rs. 4,61,732 as against Rs. 5,33,594 for the combined province of Bihar and Orissa in 1935-36. The total strength of the Bihar College of Engineering, on the 31st March 1937, was 278 as against 248 in the previous year. There was a slight increase from 32 to 43 in the number of applications for admission. Out of 85 students who passed out during the period 1932-33 to 1936-37, 10 students were on practical training, 14 were still unemployed and the remaining 61 had found employment. The Industrial Diploma course continued to be popular and there were as many as 191 applications for admission as against 134 of the previous year. Of these only 22 candidates could be admitted. In the Civil Engineering subordinate course the number of applications for admission increased from 76 in the previous year to 108 in the year under review. Of these, 53 students, including 4 repeaters, were admitted.

In Ranchi Technical school as many as 158 candidates applied for admission during the year under review, of whom 48 were admitted as against the same number in the previous year. In the Tirhut Technical Institute 205 applications were received for admission as against 179 in the previous year. The Cottage Industries Institute at Gulzarbagh, which is attracting more candidates every year, completed the 13th year of its existence. Under the expansion scheme sanctioned for the Institute two new sections for teaching pottery and tailoring were started in July and October, 1936, respectively and the number of stipends was

increased from 66 to 134 and such subjects as commercial correspondence, accounts and salesmanship were included in the syllabus of studies. The number of candidates seeking admission increased from 890 in 1936 to 1,046 in 1937. While the gross expenditure on this Institute increased from Rs. 46,126 (for the year 1935-36) to Rs. 58,746, the receipts on account of the sale of goods produced by the students under training and weavers' requisites were practically the same in both these years and amounted to Rs. 19,907 and Rs. 20,639 respectively. The net cost of maintaining this Institute during the year under review amounted to Rs. 33,865 as against Rs. 25,761 in 1935-36. The increased expenditure was due to the starting of two new sections and expansion of some of the existing sections with the consequent increase in the number of boys trained.

The Government Silk Institute at Nathnagar in Bhagalpur has been in existence for the last 15 years and trains educated young men and artisan boys in the different branches of the silk industry. The outstanding feature of the working of this Institute during the year under review was the execution of large orders from America for silk handkerchiefs. In 1936, 21 students and 23 artisan boys were trained in different processes of silk manufacture and 19 of the former received stipends, while 15 students completed their course of training successfully and 8 of them found employment in private factories. In January, 1937, a fresh batch of 20 students was admitted. The gross expenditure on this Institute amounted to Rs. 33,985 and the receipts on account of sale of silk both in India and in foreign countries amounted to Rs. 18,091. The net cost of maintaining this useful institution was Rs. 11,019, during the year under review as against Rs. 17,136 in 1935-36.

The Wool Weaving Institute at Gaya continued to train young men in the wool weaving industry. Out of 18 students admitted in January 1936, 13 completed their course of training and passed in the final examination. Six of them are reported to be employed in the industry and one in the Institute. 127 boys sought admission in 1937, but only 18 could be admitted, of whom 12 were awarded stipends. Against an expenditure of Rs. 5,754 during the year, a sum of Rs. 1,970 was realised as sale proceeds of students' work as against Rs. 2,296 of the previous year. The net cost of maintaining this Institute amounted to Rs. 3,813.

The half time weaving school at Bihar continued to impart industrial training side by side with general education. The net cost of maintaining this institution during 1936-37 was Rs. 3,171.

The Technical schools at Jamalpur and Jamshedpur trained a number of students during the year under review. At the Jamalpur Technical school there were 824 applications for admission, of which 97 were from Biharis. Only twenty-five candidates were selected for admission and of these 4 were Biharis, including 2 Muslims. The total number of apprentice mechanics in this school on the 31st March 1937 was 138, of whom 29 belonged to this province. The school received a grant-in-aid of Rs. 11,310 during the year. At the Jamshedpur Technical Night school 313 students applied for admission, of whom 221 were admitted. The school received a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,800 during the year under review.

The Indian School of Mines at Dhanbad continued to train students in mining and during the year under review two more scholarships of Rs. 60 a month *plus* cost of books not exceeding Rs. 150 each were awarded by Government for training in this school. There were altogether 6 scholars of this province studying in the school.

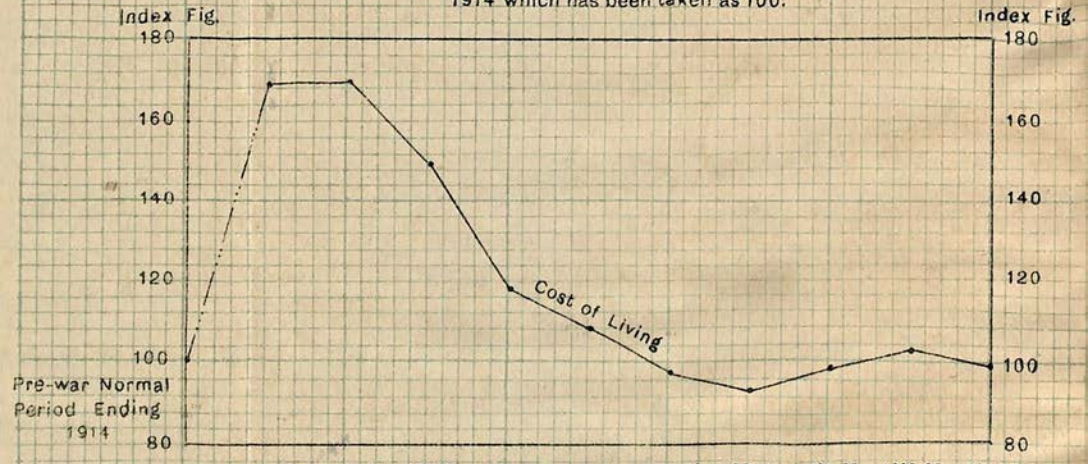
Apart from the scholarships mentioned above, a number of scholarships and stipends were awarded for the training of students outside the province in subjects for which adequate facilities do not exist within the province. During the year sixteen such scholarships and stipends ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 per month were awarded, viz., 1 in sugar technology, 3 in tanning, 2 in textile manufacture, 2 in practical weaving, 2 in radio and wireless telegraphy, 2 in fine arts, 1 in marine engineering, 1 in lino-type printing, 1 in sugar analyst course and 1 in leather manufacture.

Industrial Engineering and Chemistry.

The Engineering section of the department of Industries continued to render technical assistance in the erection and maintenance of machinery to the industrialists, particularly to those who got their mills compounded with the Department. The circle officers gave technical advice and guidance to the public in setting up new industries and making extensions and improvements to the existing factories. In all 214 mills and factories were visited by the circle officers during the year under review. The revenue from the services rendered, however, fell from Rs. 2,950-9-0 to Rs. 2,186-6-0. This was mainly due to the separation of Orissa with the consequent decrease in the number of new erections and the redistribution of the area among the circle officers after the transfer of a permanent circle officer to Orissa.

The work of the Chemical Advisor to the Director of Industries continued to increase. Two scholars were admitted for training in

Chart showing the rise and fall in the cost of Living of the labouring classes at Patna as compared with the pre-war normal period ending 1914 which has been taken as 100.



Drawn & Zincographed in the Bihar Survey Office, Gulzarbagh, Patna.

applied chemistry. Regular demonstrations in soap making as a cottage industry were arranged as in the previous years and in all two students completed their training in soap making. In addition to this, 29 young men were given instruction in the manufacture of soap, toilet preparations, boot polish and phenyle at the Bihar Provincial Exhibition held at Patna in February and March, 1937. The Chemical Advisor continued to receive numerous enquiries from small industrialists regarding the manufacture and other details of various chemical products and analysed 14 samples of sugar to ascertain the sucrose content in connection with the administration of the Sugar Excise Duty Act.

Cost of living.

The cost of living of the working classes in the first month of the year 1936-37, as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, was higher by 9 points at Patna, by 6 points at Ranchi and by 1 point each at Muzaffarpur, Monghyr and Jharia, while it was lower by 5 points at Jamshedpur. As in the preceding year, the seasonal rise and fall during the year was not marked. In the last month of the year, *i.e.*, in March 1937, the percentage of fall in the cost of living below the pre-war normal period was 14 at Ranchi, 6 at Muzaffarpur, 2 each at Patna and Monghyr, and 1 at Jharia, while the percentage of rise over the pre-war normal period was 3 at Jamshedpur. The average cost of living for the whole year under review showed a fall of 3 points at Patna, 2 points each at Jamshedpur and Ranchi, 1 point at Jharia and a rise of 1 point at Muzaffarpur, while it remained stationary at Monghyr. Ranchi was the cheapest centre for a workman to live in, while Jamshedpur continued to be the dearest.

Information Bureau.

The Information Bureau continued to assist young men, with scientific and technical training, in finding employment in the industries of the province and putting such suitably qualified candidates in touch with employers. The Bureau was also successful in securing employment for a number of a men with general education in the industries of the province. The Bureau registered the names of about 1,000 candidates and was able to secure 387 requisitions for posts, against which 218 persons were provided with employment, 97 in permanent posts and 121 as apprentices. The above figures show that the Bureau has achieved a fair degree of success in its brief existence of two years and justifies the demand for its being placed on a permanent basis with an enlarged scope by the inclusion of all posts in industries, including those requiring general qualifications.

Commercial and Industrial Intelligence.

The Commercial and Industrial Intelligence section of the Department of Industries continued to be both popular and useful. The number of enquiries received by the Department relating to commerce, trade, industry and other industrial and technical subjects increased. The technical reference library attached to the Department continued to be popular. The number of books rose to 1,875 and the number of visitors to the library rose to 1,150, during the year.

APPENDIX I.

A.—THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. [Assumed charge of office on the 11th March 1937.]

B.—MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha, Prime Minister for Home Affairs. [Assumed charge of office, 20th July 1937.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, Minister for Finance and Local Self-Government. [Assumed charge of office, 20th July 1937.]

The Hon'ble Dr. Saiyid Mahmud, Minister for Education and Development. [Assumed charge of office, 20th July 1937.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Jaglal Chaudhuri, Minister for Excise and Public Health. [Assumed charge of office, 20th July 1937.]

C.—PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

(1) Mr. Shivanandan Prashad Mandal, M.L.A., Judicial and Jails.

(2) Mr. Krishna Ballabh Sahay, M.L.A., Revenue, Appointment and Political.

(3) Mr. Jagat Narayan Lal, M.L.A., Finance and Commerce.

(4) Mr. Jimut Bahan Sen, M.L.A., Public Works and Irrigation.

(5) Mr. Binodanand Jha, M.L.A., Local Self-Government, Medical and Public Health.

(6) Mr. Sarangdhar Sinha, M.L.A., Education including Registration.

(7) Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, M.L.A., Development.

(8) Mr. Sayeedul Haque, M.L.A., Excise.

D.—MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE FROM BIHAR.

NOMINATED OFFICIAL.

Nil.

NOMINATED NON-OFFICIAL.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Shams-ud-din Haider, O.B.E.

The Hon'ble Raja Devaki Nandan Prashad Singh.

ELECTED.

Name.	Constituencies.
1. The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E., of Darbhanga.	Bihar (Non-Muhammadan).
2. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sri Narayan Mahtha.	
3. The Hon'ble Mr. Hussain Imam	Bihar (Muhammadan).

E.—MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FROM BIHAR.

NOMINATED OFFICIAL.

Nil.

NOMINATED NON-OFFICIAL.

Nil.

ELECTED.

Name.	Constituencies.
Mr. Satya Narayan Singh	... Darbhanga *cum* Saran (Non-Muhammadan).
Mr. Bepin Behari Varma	... Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran (Non-Muhammadan).
Babu Ramayan Prashad	... Patna *cum* Shahabad (Non-Muhammadan).
Babu Gauri Shankar Singh	... Gaya *cum* Monghyr (Non-Muhammadan).
Babu Kailash Behari Lal	... Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Santal Parganas (Non-Muhammadan).
Babu Ramnarayan Singh	... Chota Nagpur Division (Non-Muhammadan).
Mr. Nauman Muhammad	... Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa (Muhammadan).
M. Md. Ahsan ...	... Bhagalpur Division (Muhammadan).
Maulavi Abdul Gani ...	... Tirhut Division (Muhammadan).
Maharaja Bahadur Ram Ran Vijai Prashad Singh.	Bihar and Orissa Landholders.

F.—THE BIHAR LEGISLATURE.

The Hon'ble Mr. Rajivaranjan Prasad Sinha, M.A.	President, 23rd July 1937.
Mr. Saiyid Naqi Imam, BAR.-AT-LAW ...	Deputy President, 23rd July 1937.
The Hon'ble Mr. Ramdayalu Sinha, B.A., LL.B.	Speaker, 23rd July 1937.
Mr. Abdul Bari, M.A.	Deputy Speaker, 23rd July 1937.

G.—THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

COUNCILLORS.

Name of member. Constituency.

Date of appointment—1st April 1937.

1. The Hon'ble Mr. Rajivaranjan Prasad Sinha. North Patna Division General.
2. Raja Bahadur Harihar Prashad Narayan Singh, O.B.E. Gaya General.
3. Mr. Bishwanath Prashad Narayan Singh. Saran *cum* Champaran General.

COUNCILLORS—*contd.*

Name.	Constituency.
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
4. Mr. Maheshwar Prasad Narayan Singh.	Muzaffarpur General.
5. Mr. Ganga Nand Singh ...	Darbhanga General.
6. Rai Bahadur Deonandan Prashad Singh.	Monghyr *cum* Santal Parganas General.
7. Kumar Ramanand Singh ...	Bhagalpur *cum* Purnea General.
Date of appointment—7th August 1937.	
8. Mr. Bishunlal Singh ...	Hazaribagh *cum* Manbhum General.
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
9. Mr. Nalini Kumar Sen ...	Ranchi and Palamau *cum* Singhbhum General.
10. Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muhammad Ismail.	Patna *cum* Shahabad Muhammadan.
11. Mr. Saiyid Naqi Imam ...	Gaya *cum* Chota Nagpur Division Muhammadan.
12. Mr. Saiyid Mobarak Ali ...	Tirhut Division Muhammadan.
13. Mr. Jamilur Rahman ...	Bhagalpur Division Muhammadan.
14. Mr. A. C. Combe	Bihar European.
15. Mr. Abdul Ahad Mohammad Noor	Elected by the Bihar Legislative Assembly.
Date of appointment—9th February 1938.	
16. Mr. Rai Brijraj Krishna ...	Elected by the Bihar Legislative Assembly.
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
17. Mr. Balram Rai	Elected by the Bihar Legislative Assembly.
18. Mr. Bansi Lal	Ditto ditto.
19. Mr. Gajindra Narayan Singh ...	Ditto ditto.
20. Mr. Kamleshwari Prasad Mandal	Ditto ditto.
21. Mr. Nageshwar Prashad Singh	Ditto ditto.
22. Mr. Puneydeo Sharma ...	Ditto ditto.
23. Mr. Saiyid Muhammad Hafeez	Ditto ditto.
24. Rai Bahadur Satish Chandra Sinha.	Ditto ditto.
25. Mr. Bahadur Nawab Saiyid Shah Wajid Husain.	Ditto ditto.
26. Mr. Tribeni Prashad Singh ...	Ditto ditto.
27. Babu Gur Sahay Lal ...	Nominated.
Date of appointment—28th June 1937.	
28. Mr. Samuel Purti	Nominated.
29. Mrs. Malcolm Sinha ...	Do.
Date of appointment—22nd April 1938.	
30. Mr. Brij Nandan Prasad ...	Nominated.

H.—THE BIHAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

COUNCILLORS.

ELECTED.

Patna Division.

Name.	Constituency.
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
1. Dr. Sir Ganesh Datta Singh, Kt.	Patna Division Landholders.
2. Mr. Sarangdhar Sinha ...	Patna City General Urban.
3. Mr. Jagat Narayan Lal ...	Patna Division General Urban.
4. Mr. Indra Dewan Saran Singh.	Central Patna General Rural.
5. Mr. Shyam Nandan Sinha ...	Dinapore General Rural.
6. Mr. Sheel Bhadra Yajee ...	Barh General Rural.
7. Mr. Shyam Narayan Singh ...	East Bihar General Rural.
8. Mr. Ram Prashad	
9. Mr. Birendra Bahadur Sinha ...	South Gaya General Rural.
10. Mr. Sukhari Ram Madhuvarat	
11. The Hon'ble Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha.	Aurangabad General Rural.
12. Mr. Jamuna Prashad Sinha ...	Nawadah General Rural.
13. Mr. Bundi Ram	
14. Mr. Jugal Kishor Narayan Sinha	North Gaya General Rural.
15. Mr. Hargovind Misra ...	Buxar General Rural.
16. Pandit Gupteshwar Pandey ...	Bhabua General Rural.
17. Mr. Harinandan Singh ...	North-East Shahabad General Rural.
18. Mr. Budhan Rai Verma ...	East Central Shahabad General Rural.
19. Mr. Jagjivan Ram	
20. Mr. Harihar Sinha	Sasaram General Rural.
Date of appointment—9th February 1938.	
21. Mr. Saiyid Jafar Imam ...	Patna City Muhammadan Urban.
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
22. Mr. Hafiz Zafar Hasan ...	Patna Division Muhammadan Urban.
23. Mr. Muhammad Yunus ...	West Patna Muhammadan Rural.
24. Mr. Sharfuddin Hasan ...	East Patna Muhammadan Rural.
25. Mr. Saiyid Najmul Hasan ...	East Gaya General Rural.
26. Mr. Muhammad Latifur Rahman	West Gaya Muhammadan Rural.
27. Chaudhuri Sharafat Hussain ...	Shahabad Muhammadan Rural.
28. Srimati Kamakhya Devi ...	Patna General Urban Women's.
29. Lady Anise Imam	Patna City Muhammadan Women's.

COUNCILLORS—*contd.*

ELECTED—contd.

Name.	Constituency.
	Tirhut Division.
	Date of appointment—1st April 1937.
30. Mr. Chandreshvar Prashad Narayan Sinha, C.I.E.	Tirhut Division Landholders.
31. Mr. Vindhyeshwari Prashad Varma.	Tirhut Division General Urban.
32. Mr. Biresh Dutta Sinha ...	West Saran Sadr General Rural.
33. Mr. Dvarka Nath Tiwari ...	East Saran Sadr General Rural.
34. Mr. Narayan Prashad Sinha ...	North-East Siwan General Rural.
35. Mr. Shiveshvar Prashad Narayan Sinha Sharma.	South-West Siwan General Rural.
36. Mr. Prabhunath Sinha ...	East Gopalganj *cum* Mashrakh and Marhaura General Rural.
37. Mr. Gobindpati Tiwari ...	West Gopalganj General Rural.
38. Mr. Ram Basawan Rabidas ...	
39. Mr. Ganesh Prashad ...	North-West Champaran Sadr General Rural.
40. Mr. Gorakh Prashad	East Champaran Sadr General Rural.
41. Mr. Haribans Sahay	South-West Champaran Sadr General Rural.
42. Mr. Baidyanath Misra ...	South Bettiah General Rural.
43. Mr. Vishwanath Singh ...	North Bettiah General Rural.
44. Mr. Balgobind Bhagat ...	North Bettiah Scheduled Caste.
45. Mr. Mahesh Prashad Sinha ...	East Muzaffarpur Sadr General Rural.
46. Mr. Shivanandan Ram ...	East Muzaffarpur Sadr.
47. Mr. Brijnandan Sahi	West Muzaffarpur Sadr General Rural.
48. The Hon'ble Mr. Ramdayalu Sinha.	East Sitamarhi *cum* Katra and Minapur General Rural.
49. Mr. Rameshvar Prashad Sinha	South-West Hajipur General Rural.
50. Mr. Dip Narayan Sinha ...	North-East Hajipur General Rural.
51. Thakur Ramnandan Sinha ...	North Sitamarhi General Rural.
52. Mr. Ramasis Thakur	West Sitamarhi General Rural.
53. Mr. Rajendra Narayan Chaudhuri.	North Madhubani General Rural.
54. Mr. Chaturanan Das	South Madhubani General Rural.
55. Mr. Jamuna Karjee	East Madhubani *cum* Bahera General Rural.
56. Mr. Surya Nandan Thakur ...	Darbhanga Sadr General Rural.
57. Mr. Ramcharan Sinha ...	South-East Samastipur General Rural.
58. Mr. Keshwar Ram	Darbhanga Sadr General Rural.

COUNCILLORS—*contd.*

ELECTED—contd.

Tirhut Division—concld.

Name.	Constituency.
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
59. Mr. Rajeshvar Prashad Narayan Sinha.	North-West Samastipur.
60. Mr. Sundar Mahto	South-East Samastipur.
61. Mr. Abdul Jalil	Tirhut Muhammadan Urban.
62. Mr. Nur Hasan	Saran Sadr Muhammadan Rural.
63. Mr. Muhammad Qasim ...	Siwan Muhammadan Rural.
64. Khan Bahadur Saghirul Haqq	Gopalganj Muhammadan Rural.
65. The Hon'ble Dr. Saiyid Mahmud.	North Champaran Sadr Muhammadan Rural.
66. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Majid ...	South Champaran Sadr Muhammadan Rural.
67. Hafiz Shaikh Muhammad Sani.	Bettiah Muhammadan Rural.
68. Khan Sahib Muhammad Yakub.	Muzaffarpur Sadr Muhammadan Rural.
69. Mr. Badrul Hasan	Hajipur Muhammadan Rural.
70. Mr. Tajamul Husain	Sitamarhi Muhammadan Rural.
71. Mr. Ahmad Ghafoor	North-West Darbhanga Muhammadan Rural.
72. Mr. Muhammad Shafi ...	North-East Darbhanga Muhammadan Rural.
73. Mr. Muhammad Salim ...	South Darbhanga Muhammadan Rural.
74. Mr. Sayeedul Haqq	Central Darbhanga Muhammadan Rural.
75. Srimati Sharda Kumari Devi ...	Muzaffarpur Town General Urban Women's.
Bhagalpur Division.	
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
76. Mr. Surya Mohan Thakur ...	Bhagalpur Landholders.
77. Mr. Upendra Nath Mukharji ...	Bhagalpur Division General Urban.
78. Mr. Mewalal Jha	South Bhagalpur Sadr General Rural.
79. Mr. Shivadhari Sinha ...	North Bhagalpur Sadr *cum* Kishanganj General Rural.
80. Mr. Harkishore Prashad ...	Banka General Rural.
81. Mr. Rajendra Misra	Supaul General Rural.
82. Mr. Shivanandan Prashad Mandal.	Madhipura General Rural.
83. Mr. Ram Baras Das	
84. Hon'ble Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha	South Sadr Monghyr General Rural.
85. Dr. Raghunandan Prashad ...	South Sadr Monghyr.

COUNCILLORS—*contd.*

ELECTED—contd.

Bhagalpur Division—concld.

Name.	Constituency.
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
86. Mr. Nirapada Mukharji ...	North Sadr Monghyr.
87. Mr. Ramcharitra Sinha ...	West Begusarai General Rural.
88. Mr. Brahmadeo Narayan Singh	East Begusarai General Rural.
89. Mr. Kalika Prashad Singh ...	Jamui General Rural.
90. Mr. Ramdin Tiwari	North-West Purnea General Rural.
91. Mr. Kishori Lal Kundu ...	East Purnea General Rural.
92. Mr. Dheer Narayan Chand ...	South-West Purnea General Rural.
93. Hon'ble Mr. Jaglal Chaudhuri	
94. Mr. Binodanand Jha	Deoghar *cum* Jamtara.
95. Mr. Budhinath Jha	Godda General Rural.
96. Mr. Bhagban Chandra Das ...	Santal Parganas Sadr General Rural.
97. Mr. Charan Murmu	Santal Parganas Sadr General Rural.
98. Mr. Brijlall Dokania	Pakaur *cum* Rajmahal General Rural.
99. Mr. Debu Murmu	
100. Chaudhuri Muhammad Nazirul Hasan.	North Monghyr Muhammadan Rural.
101. Mr. Saiyid Rafiuddin Ahmad Rizvi.	South Monghyr Muhammadan Rural.
102. Mr. Muhammad Mahmud ...	Bhagalpur Sadr *cum* Banka Muhammadan Rural.
103. Mr. Saiyid Muhammad Minnatullah.	Madhipura *cum* Supaul Muhammadan Rural.
104. Mr. Shaikh Ziaur Rahman ...	Araria Muhammadan Rural.
105. Mr. Zainuddin Hasan Mirza	South Kishunganj Muhammadan Rural.
106. Mr. Muhammad Islamuddin ...	North-East Kishunganj Muhammadan Rural.
107. Mr. Shaikh Muhammad Fazlur Rahman.	North-West Kishunganj Muhammadan Rural.
108. Mr. Muhammad Tahir ...	North Purnea Sadr Muhammadan Rural.
109. Mr. Shaikh Shafiqul Haqq ...	South-East Purnea Sadr Muhammadan Rural.
110. Mr. Saiyid Ali Manzar ...	South Santal Parganas Muhammadan Rural.
111. Mr. Abdul Bari	North Santal Parganas Muhammadan Rural.
112. Srimati Saraswati Devi ...	Bhagalpur Town General Urban Women's.
113. Khan Bahadur Nawab Abdul Wahab Khan.	Bhagalpur Division Muhammadan Urban.

COUNCILLORS—*contd.*

ELECTED—contd.

Chota Nagpur Division.

Name.	Constituency.
"Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
114. Maharaj Kumar Rajkishore Nath Shah Deo.	Chota Nagpur Division Landholders.
115. Mr. Jimut Bahan Sen ...	Chota Nagpur Division General Urban.
116. Mr. Krishna Ballabh Sahay ...	Central Hazaribagh General Rural.
117. Mr. Hopna Santal	
118. Mr. Sukhlal Singh	Giridih *cum* Chatra General Rural.
119. Mr. Karu Dusadh	
120. Mr. Devaki Nandan Prashad ...	Ranchi Sadr General Rural.
121. Mr. Ram Bhagat	
122. Bara Lal Kandarp Nath Shah Deo.	Gumla *cum* Simdega General Rural.
123. Mr. Boniface Lakra	
124. Mr. Purna Chandra Mitra ...	Khunti General Rural.
125. Mr. Rajkishore Sinha ...	North-East Palamau General Rural.
126. Mr. Jitu Ram	
127. Mr. Jadubans Sahay	South-West Palamau General Rural.
128. Mr. Upendra Mohan Das Gupta.	South Manbhum General Rural.
129. Mr. Tika Ram Manjhi ...	
130. Kumar Ajit Prashad Singh Deo	Central Manbhum General Rural.
131. Mr. Gulu Dhopa	
132. Mr. Ambika Charan Mallik ...	North Manbhum General Rural.
133. Mr. Pramatha Bhattasali ...	Singhbhum General Rural.
134. Mr. Devendra Nath Samanta ...	
135. Mr. Rasika Ho	
136. Mr. Abdul Majid	Hazaribagh Muhammadan Rural.
137. Mr. Shaikh Ramzan Ali ...	Ranchi *cum* Singhbhum Muhammadan Rural.
138. Mr. Shaikh Muhammad Husain.	Palamau Muhammadan Rural.
139. Mr. Qazi Muhammad Ilyas ...	Manbhum Muhammadan Rural.
140. Mr. Mohi-ud-din Ahmad ...	Chota Nagpur Muhammadan Urban.

Anglo-Indian Constituency.

Date of appointment—1st April 1937.

141. Mr. A. M. Hayman, O.B.E. ... Anglo-Indian.

COUNCILLORS—*concld.*

ELECTED—concld.

European Constituency.

Name.	Constituency.
Date of appointment—12th April 1937.	
142. Mr. E. C. Danby	Patna and Tirhut *cum* Bhagalpur European.
Date of appointment—2nd February 1938.	
143. Mr. B. W. Haigh	Chota Nagpur European.

Indian Christian Constituency.

Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
144. Mr. Ignes Beck	Indian Christian.

Commerce, Industry, Mining and Planting Constituency.

Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
145. Mr. Chakreshvar Kumar Jain	The Bihar Chamber of Commerce.
Date of appointment—12th April 1937.	
146. Mr. W. H. Meyrick, O.B.E. ...	The Bihar Planters' Association.
Date of appointment—26th February 1938.	
147. Mr. P. S. Keelan	The Indian Mining Association.
Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
148. Mr. Munindra Nath Mukharji	The Indian Mining Federation.

Labour Constituency.

Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
149. Mr. Natha Ram	Jamshedpur Factory Labour.
150. Mr. Harendra Bahadur Chandra.	Monghyr *cum* Jamalpur Factory Labour.
151. Mr. Kshetra Nath Sen Gupta	Hazaribagh Mining Labour.

University.

Date of appointment—1st April 1937.	
152. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha ...	University.

APPENDIX II.

Genaral Abstract of Revenue and Receipts and Expenditure.

[IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES EXCEPT ACCOUNTS.]

Revenue and receipts.	Budget Estimate, 1937-38.	Revised Estimate, 1936-37.	Budget Estimate, 1936-37.	Accounts 1935-36.
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Rs.
A—PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUES—				
I.—Customs	13,47	..	..	..
IV.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation tax.	..	..	73	115
V.—Salt	9	27	63	50,600
VII.—Land Revenue	1,35,56	1,36,20	1,38,48	1,78,92,943
VIII.—Provincial Excise	1,17,00	1,16,25	1,21,74	1,43,78,215
IX.—Stamps	1,00,75	97,50	1,03,50	1,16,98,695
X.—Forest	6,25	5,56	6,08	7,32,467
XI.—Registration	13,00	12,50	12,58	14,50,378
XII.—Receipts under Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	27	28	26	32,335
XIII.—Other taxes and duties	..	..	..	..
C—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.—				
XVII.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which capital accounts are kept.(a)	20,84	21,21	19,58	21,52,762
XVIII.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works for which no capital accounts are kept.	1,04	1,06	85	1,17,524
E—DEBT SERVICES—				
XX.—Interest	19,13	.. 6,92	7,76	6,16,809
F—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION—				
XXI.—Administration of Justice	4,02	3,97	4,10	4,09,562
XXII.—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	5,56	5,31	3,84	5,81,004
XXIII.—Police	10,23	1,80	1,85	1,96,323
XXIV.—Ports and Pilotage	..	..	..	3,570
XXVI.—Education	6,07	6,21	6,06	7,46,902
XXVII.—Medical	3,11	3,21	2,10	2,24,038
XXVIII.—Public Health	2,52	2,02	1,97	2,36,940
XXIX.—Agriculture	3,57	2,13	1,93	1,85,530
XXX.—Veterinary	1,91	1,86	2,12	1,75,492
XXXI.—Co-operative Credit	1,21	97	8	13,710
XXXII.—Industries	3,94	3,84	3,53	3,32,121
XXXVI.—Miscellaneous Departments	1,29	1,69	1,02	2,271

(a) The net Irrigation receipts after deducting "Working Expenses" (which includes the irrigation *pro rata* share of the common establishment of the public Works Department) are shown here.

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

General Abstract of Revenue and Receipts and Expenditure.

[IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES EXCEPT ACCOUNTS].

Revenue and receipts.	Budget Estimate, 1937-38.	Revised Estimate, 1936-37.	Budget Estimate, 1936-37.	Accounts 1935-36.
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Rs.
H—CIVIL WORKS AND MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.—				
XXXIX.—Civil Works	7,96	10,47	10,42	10,61,932
I—MISCELLANEOUS—				
XLIII.—Transfers from Bihar Famine Relief Fund	20	..	..	1
XLIV.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ..	2,07	1,48	2,08	1,08,721
XLV.—Stationery and Printing	2,73	3,78	3,39	2,81,873
XLVI.—Miscellaneous	11,36	4,47	3,56	3,69,142
J—CONTRIBUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.—				
L.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.	..	11,75	10,00	11,18,000
M—EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS—				
LI.—Extraordinary Receipts	..	..	..	309
TOTAL REVENUE ..	4,95,15	4,62,71	4,70,24	5,51,65,284
O—UNFUNDED DEBT	25,16	..	..	..
P—DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES	4,94,16	1,35,77	57,91	85,79,269
R—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.	22,98	25,91	17,42	17,06,800
S—Remittance	1,24,04	..	..	..
TOTAL—RECEIPTS OTHER THAN REVENUE ..	6,66,34	1,61,68	75,33	1,02,86,069
TOTAL RECEIPTS ..	11,61,49	6,24,39	5,45,57	6,54,51,353
Opening Balance	1,23,03	70,91	61,12	46,83,838
GRAND TOTAL ..	12,84,52	6,95,30	6,06,69	*7,01,35,191*

APPENDIX II—*contd.*

General Abstract of Revenue and Receipts and Expenditure.

[IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES.]

Expenditure.	Budget Estimate, 1937-38.	Grant on account, 1937-38.	Revised Estimate, 1936-37.	Budget Estimate, 1936-37.	Accounts, 1935-36.
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
A—DIRECT DEMANDS ON THE REVENUE—					
5.—Salt	..	..	..	..	1
7.—Land Revenue	12,06	6,27	12,08	11,61	14,71
8.—Provincial Excise	12,99	6,95	12,89	13,06	17,06
9.—Stamps	1,89	94	1,87	1,86	2,05
10.—Forest	5,83	2,65	5,60	5,49	7,08
11.—Registration	5,75	2,79	5,58	5,50	6,44
12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Acts.	26	14	27	24	31
C—REVENUE ACCOUNT OF IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS—					
XVII.—Irrigation Working Expenses ..	..	4,10	..	..	..
17.—Interest on Irrigation Works for which capital accounts are kept.	11,50	..	11,50	11,48	20,34
18.—Irrigation Revenue Account—Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.	3,83	2,38	1,52	1,23	3,65
19.—Irrigation Capital Account—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works charged to revenue.	..	..	..	..	—1
E—DEBT SERVICES—					
22.—Interest on ordinary Debt and other obligations.	5,52	..	5,77	5,85	4,46
23.—Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance of debt.	..	..	..	10,51	5,79
F—CIVIL ADMINISTRATION—					
25.—General Administration	70,83	29,16	65,59	64,16	75,01
27.—Administration of Justice	37,12	18,23	36,98	35,82	40,41
28.—Jails and Convict Settlements ..	17,70	9,05	18,21	16,80	19,48
29.—Police	78,72	38,91	72,39	71,95	84,91
30.—Ports and Pilotage	..	..	..	..	3
36.—Scientific Departments	30	16	33	35	34
37.—Education	71,32	36,41	68,42	70,45	85,21
38.—Medical	22,95	10,64	22,19	22,02	26,27
39.—Public Health	14,14	6,47	10,95	11,79	12,79
40.—Agriculture	8,97	4,04	10,38	6,91	6,81
41.—Veterinary	5,05	2,29	4,69	5,01	5,10
42.—Co-operative Credit	3,62	1,77	3,69	2,97	3,54
43.—Industries	9,42	4,34	8,97	8,75	9,84
44.—Aviation	..	..	..	..	..
47.—Miscellaneous Departments ..	1,13	53	1,28	1,09	35
H.—CIVIL WORKS AND MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS—					
50.—Civil Works	50,88	27,93	46,24	48,34	51,96
J—MISCELLANEOUS—					
54.—Famine Relief	48	33	65	48	1,06
55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	38,76	11,75	34,45	34,29	40,37
55A.—Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary revenues.	2,87	..	2,70	3,05	..
56.—Stationery and Printing	8,26	3,96	8,89	7,95	8,11
57.—Miscellaneous	1,19	59	6,92	2,66	4,31
L—CONTRIBUTIONARY AND MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS—					
62.—Miscellaneous adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments.	..	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX II—*concld.*

General Abstract of Revenue and Receipts and Expenditure.

[IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES.]

Expenditure.	Budget Estimate, 1937-38.	Grant on account, 1937-38.	Revised Estimate, 1936-37.	Budget Estimate, 1936-37.	Accounts, 1935-36.
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
M—EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS—					
63.—Extraordinary charges	..	..	8	7	7
Expenditure in England ..	..	11,19	..	..	..
TOTAL—EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO REVENUE	5,03,34	2,43,97	4,81,08	4,81,73	5,58,76
H—CIVIL WORKS AND MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE—					
68.—Construction of Irrigation, etc., works not charged to Revenue.	..	8	..	..	1
J—MISCELLANEOUS CAPITAL ACCOUNT NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE—					
81.—Civil Works not charged to Revenue ..	12,58	6,86	21,21	21,07	16,88
82.—Other Provincial works not charged to Revenue.	28	15	71	69	84
83.—Payments of Commuted value of Pensions	—1,27	1,35	—1,23	—1,27	1,72
85.—Payments to retrenched personnel ..	—7	..	—2	—1	—1
TOTAL—EXPENDITURE NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE.	11,52	8,44	20,67	20,48	19,44
O—UNFUNDED DEBT	13,39	..	..	..	..
P—DEPOSITS AND ADVANCES	5,32,84	1,08	1,03,21	39,17	33,38
R—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.	11,62	6,88	12,83	6,21	18,86
S—REMITTANCES	1,24,77	..	..	..	..
TOTAL—DEBT DEPOSITS, ETC., HEADS ..	6,82,62	7,96	1,16,04	45,38	52,24
Reserve for unforeseen	..	..	..	5,00	..
TOTAL—EXPENDITURE ..	11,97,48	2,60,37	6,17,79	5,52,59	6,30,44
Closing balance	87,04	..	75,01	54,10	70,91
GRAND TOTAL ..	12,84,52	..	(a) 6,92,80	6,06,69	7,01,35
Provincial { Surplus	..	..	410	..	..
Provincial { Deficit	35,99	..	..	7,02	..

(a) Excluding 2,50 transferred to Orissa (Rural Development grant share) outside accounts.

APPENDIX III.

A.—His Excellency Sir James Sifton's speech at the Prorogation of the Legislative Council at Patna on the 21st November 1936.

B.—His Excellency Sir James Sifton's speech at the Convocation of the Patna University at Patna on the 26th November 1936.

C.—His Excellency Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett's first speech immediately on assumption of office at the Bihar Provincial Exhibition at Patna on the 15th March 1937.

A.—His Excellency Sir James Sifton's speech at the Prorogation of the Legislative Council at Patna on the 21st November 1936.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Although for certain technical reasons, which I need not go into, the Council will remain in being until the end of next March, this is the last occasion of meeting, and it will transact no further business after it is prorogued. I have therefore to bid you farewell to-day.

Those among you—and there are not more than one or two—who like myself were members of the old Council that assembled prior to the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, will appreciate how far we have advanced since those early days. The Council created by the Morley-Minto reforms gave an opportunity for a limited number of non-official members, indirectly elected, to voice their opinion, but there was a nominated Government majority and not much of the reality of the Parliamentary system. The installation of the present constitution was a great advance; giving the Legislature an elected majority, placing half of the administration of the province under Ministers chosen from the elected members and answerable to the vote of the Council, while after the first few years, the Council had the right to elect its own President. This was a period of adolescence, and it is shortly to be succeeded by a constitution giving responsibility to representatives of the electorate for all departments of the administration.

I do not propose to go through the record of the past four Councils. It would be tedious to do so, and most of you know what has been achieved in the way of Legislation and what advances and improvements in the administration of the various departments have been discussed and approved by the Council.

The province for some years past has been struggling against the weight of a falling revenue to maintain such progress as had been secured before the post-war slump, and since the beginning of 1934 the greatest effort has had to be concentrated on repair of the damage of the Great Earthquake on which the total expenditure has been in the region of three crores of rupees. These factors have stood in the way of any notable advance in the administration of Bihar. And it has been as unsatisfactory for the Council to hear, as for the Members of Government to make, the often repeated statement

that Government entirely agree that particular improvements ought to be made but the finances of the province put improvements out of question. Although a great part of the proceedings in this Council may have been infructuous on this account and have had the appearance of unreality, I can say unhesitatingly that the general standard of debate and standard of criticism by the opposition has made a great advance during the period of the current constitution and that this Council can safely challenge comparison in its proceedings with any of the provincial Councils in India.

In the first place the Council has been fortunate or wise or both fortunate and wise in the succession of Presidents who have been chosen. The first President, Sir Walter Maude, was appointed by Government, but thereafter came the non-official Presidents; Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha, who brought with him his experience gained as Deputy President of the Indian Legislative Assembly, Mr. Khwaja Muhammad Nur, then my present colleague, Mr. Nirsu Narayan Sinha, who was succeeded by you, Sir. Each of them has filled the post with dignity, patience and courtesy, and together they have built up a code of rulings and precedents with which the House has concurred and to which the members conform. This satisfactory position was rendered possible only by the recognition of each President in turn, on his appointment, that upon assuming his office he ceased to belong to any party or section of the House and must show a most absolute impartiality in his conduct of proceedings.

As I have said already, there has also been a noticeable advance in the sense of responsibility among the members taking part in the debates. It may be the business of the opposition to oppose; it certainly is the duty of the opposition to examine critically all the proposals put before them. That duty they have been performing with increasing efficiency, and the Government's attitude towards administrative affairs has often been modified in recent years in the face of views strongly held and forcibly expressed by members of the opposition. Undoubtedly the fact that Members of Government and Ministers have to be able to justify their action at the bar of this House, and meet all legitimate criticisms has imposed a restraint upon hastily conceived proceedings.

We are passing now from what I have termed an adolescent stage to full provincial autonomy—a momentous advance. The party, or the coalition of parties which received the support of majority of an electorate, enlarged nearly to ten times the size of previous electorates, will be in a position to take office and with office to assume the responsibility, as I know, is not to be undertaken lightheartedly for it affects the life and welfare of more than three crores of persons. The Legislative Assembly which succeeds this Council is going to have greater power and therefore greater responsibility than you have had, and I hope that, whatever party may secure predominance in the coming election, many of you who have already had some experience of public affairs will be back in your place here to put that experience, whether in office or in opposition at the service of the province.

In passing, I should like to say a few words on the financial position of the province following upon Sir Otto Niemeyer's recommendations I saw Sir Otto myself in Calcutta, and afterwards our case for a better settlement was ably placed before this arbiter by the Hon'ble Finance Member and the Finance Secretary at Delhi. I have reasons to believe that Sir Otto was favourably impressed by the struggle that this Government had made to administer the province with strict financial integrity in the past; and consequently it was a grave disappointment to me to find that the immediate betterment which he proposed for Bihar as the minimum necessary to start on a new career was so limited. But on the other hand the province can look forward to a brighter future when a share of the income-tax is transferred

from the Central to the Provincial revenues; for in assigning to Bihar ten per cent as its share in this distributable revenue Sir Otto has given us no cause for complaint. There is therefore need of patience until that prospect is realised.

I am aware that it is said by some critics that the Bihar administration has been financially too correct in the past and that if we had incurred debts in order to work up to a higher standard of general expenditure those debts would have been cancelled together with our other borrowings from the Government of India. But more cancellation of such debts would not have provided us with the means to continue and maintain a higher standard, and the first step in provincial autonomy would have been impeded by the necessity of retrenchment of pre-existing standards. I hold that there could have been no more calamitous legacy for the future administration than the impression that current expenditure in excess of the annual revenue could be met by borrowing, that in the end some fairy godmother would step in to prevent a disastrous insolvency and that provincial autonomy did not carry with it actual responsibility for the provincial finance. From a succession of official and non-official Finance Members we shall hand on to our successors a tradition of sound though necessarily unadventurous budgeting.

Now at the time of bidding you goodbye, it is my earnest hope that those who may become leaders in this province, to whatever political party they belong, will work not for the aggrandisement of themselves or the exaltation of their party or of any section of the community, but with the single object of doing what is best for the people of Bihar. On this condition only can this tremendous experiment in democracy, taken at a time when democracy has become discredited and has been discarded in so many countries of the world in favour of autocracy and dictatorship, be a real success and with this hope I now take leave of you all.

Now, in exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (2) of section 72B of the Government of India Act, and in pursuance of paragraph 7 of the Government of India (Commencement and Transitory Provisions) Order, 1936, I hereby direct that the Bihar Legislative Council do stand prorogued until the 1st April 1937.

B.—His Excellency Sir James Sifton's speech at the Convocation of the Patna University at Patna on the 26th November 1936.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is the last year of my term of office as Chancellor of Patna University. At the previous Convocations, over which I have presided, my addresses have been very brief, because I did not wish to keep my audience waiting for the speaker specially invited to address the Convocation. This year I propose to speak at somewhat greater length while bidding you farewell.

In the first place, I must express my deep sense of gratitude to the three Vice-Chancellors with whom I have worked. Sir Stewart Macpherson was Vice-Chancellor when I assumed office. His abilities as a scholar, administrator and judge are well known to all of you, and the University will be slow to forget the energy which he devoted to reorganising its administration. In particular, he was struck by the unsuitability of the Patna University Act as he found it, an Act designed to fit in with the

abandoned scheme for constructing new buildings for the University on the site west of the New Capital. Owing to Sir Stewart's energy, the University Act was rewritten and brought up to date and the University Regulations were also rewritten to conform with it. In many other ways too, Sir Stewart's great attention to detail and keen interest in the advancement of learning showed itself in improvements in the organisation of the University and its colleges.

His successor, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nur, has laid down the reins of office after three years of successful work. These years have been particularly difficult owing to the disastrous earthquake of January 1934, which dislocated the work of the University and its colleges and presented Senate and Syndicate with a number of problems. It speaks much for the Vice-Chancellor's guidance that, to the best of my belief, these problems were solved to the general satisfaction of all concerned. As soon as normal working was restored, Mr. Justice Nur took up the task of examining the suitability of the Matriculation Examination, as now conducted. The conclusions of the Committee over which he presided have been generally endorsed by the Faculties and the Board of Secondary Education and the University has consulted Government on the subject.

You, Mr. Sinha, have recently been good enough to undertake the responsibility of the high office of Vice-Chancellor. I can only hope that your term of office will be as successful as those of your predecessors and I thank you for the public spirit which you have shown in undertaking this very onerous duty.

I should also mention the names of some at least of those whose connection with the University has ended since I assumed office. My old colleague Sir Saiyid Muhammad Fakhruddin, who had served on the original Patna University Committee of 1913, gave much of his time as our first Minister of Education to the University. Death has taken him from us. The same cruel hand has deprived Patna of three more of its citizens who had taken a keen interest in the University; Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muhammad Hussain, our second Minister of Education, Mr. Saiyid Nurul Huda, a generous patron of Islamic learning and Mr. L. K. Ghosh, who died almost as soon as he succeeded to the post of Principal of the Bihar National College. By retirement we have lost many officers of ripe experience, among whom I should mention Mr. D. N. Sen, Dr. Lambert, Dr. Caldwell, Mr. Duke, Colonel Coutts and Mr. Khosla, all of whom had rendered the University notable service.

The five years, during which I have been Chancellor, do not reveal so spectacular a record of achievement as the years when Sir Henry Wheeler or Sir Hugh Stephenson was Chancellor. I assumed office at a time when the financial stringency was at its most acute stage and any new scheme involving additional expenditure was almost necessarily rejected at sight. Then came the disaster of the earthquake, which required us to devote to the reconstruction of the affected areas practically the whole of such money as the province could spare. I should, however, mention that the earthquake itself has been a blessing in disguise to some, at any rate, of our colleges and schools, notably to the Patna Law College and the Bankipore Girls' School, which are now in occupation of new buildings for which they might have had to wait many years. Perhaps the three principal events of my term of office are firstly the revision of the University Act and Regulations, to which I have already referred, and the consequent reconstruction of the different University bodies, secondly the presentation of the Report of the Matriculation Committee, and thirdly the outstanding example of public spirit shown by my colleague, the Hon'ble Dr. Sir Ganesh Dutta Singh, who

has given three lakhs of rupees for the benefit of the student community. But it is not only by events of outstanding importance that the progress of the University must be judged, and I have every reason to believe that there have been years of steady progress in all the departments of the University's work.

I have mentioned the generous donations of Sir Ganesh Dutta Singh. I mentioned at a previous Convocation how large a part such donations play in the life of Universities in other lands. I find that during the five years ending in 1934-1935 the Universities in Great Britain received benefactions amounting to five and a quarter million sterling, besides a further sum of £670,000 given for fellowships or scholarships. Most of you have read of the munificent donation of £ 1,350,000 recently given by Lord Nuffield to my own University of Oxford, for the purpose of research in medicine.

At this stage I should like to draw attention to the great importance of making the best use of such money as we already possess. Even in England, where money is more readily forthcoming, it is difficult to keep within bounds the competition and local patriotism, which the different Universities evoke, so that cases are not infrequent of necessary duplication of classes at different centres. There is, I feel, a real danger of similar competition, not only between the different Universities in India, but even between the different colleges in Bihar itself. The point is one of increasing importance, especially in connection with the different scientific subjects, for science tends to become more and more specialized and the equipment which it requires grows more and more expensive. I feel that co-operation between Universities and colleges in this matter is of outstanding importance and I trust that you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, with your close acquaintance with the Universities in some at least of the other provinces, will do your best to secure such economies in this direction as can be effected without detriment to the interests of our students.

I will turn now to the needs of the University. In the first place, I find that if we could secure more money from endowments, it could be usefully devoted to additions to our staff. When the staff is limited, as at present, it is difficult to secure that personal contact between teachers and students, which anyone who has been taught at one of our older Universities would regard as essential. Such contact can no doubt be secured to some extent in the tutorial classes of sixteen students which we attempt to provide, but yet in such classes free discussion must be difficult within the limited time available, and if more individual tuition could be provided, its effect would be quickly felt. Nor must we forget the desirability of setting free part of the time of our teachers for further study. The teacher himself should really be a senior student; he should be continually expanding his knowledge, if he is not to become a stagnant pool, the water of which will gradually become less and less fit to drink. The teacher who has the leisure and the will to keep abreast of the latest developments in his subject will hold the interest of his class and lecture with more inspiration that one whose time is fully occupied with the routine of his daily work.

In the next place I would mention the desirability of making it possible for more of our students to live in the colleges. Some of the colleges, notably the Patna and Law Colleges, need more residential accommodation. But at other colleges the accommodation already provided is not fully utilised, probably because living in hostels is more expensive than living in lodgings. We all sympathize with the poor student, who lives in the cheapest lodgings which he can get and ekes out his scanty finances by undertaking private tuition. But many, indeed most, of these students do not secure proper facilities for study or for recreation and do not even obtain a proper diet.

Nor are these the only grounds on which it is desirable to bring into the colleges a larger proportion of these students who now live elsewhere. Speaking again as a student of one of our older Universities, I am convinced that a proper education for life cannot be achieved solely in the lecture room, the laboratory or the library. The mere acquisition of knowledge is not a sufficient preparation for life, nor does the provision of knowledge alone constitute the sole function of a University. The student should learn from the clash of minds with one another. There should be free interplay between students drawn from different social classes, brought up in different surroundings and equipped with different points of view. This is the way in which it is likely that friendships will be formed and young men will learn the art of understanding and living with others of a different outlook and temperament.

As a third need, I would draw attention to the use that could be made of endowments for study abroad. Sir Ganesh Dutta Singh has already provided a substantial sum of money for this purpose, earmarked mainly for those students who intend to take up medicine or some other form of science, but, with the stoppage of recruitment to the Indian Educational Service, we need to provide more of our own men and women with a wider educational experience than they can obtain in this country. The finances of Government are inelastic and Sir Ganesh's fine generosity is an example which, I hope, may be followed by others who have the welfare of Bihar at heart.

These are a few of the thoughts that come to my mind as the time comes for closing my connection with the University which will ever have my best wishes for fulfilling its proper function in the life of our province.

Mr. C. R. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra Uinversity, is the eminent person who has been invited to address you to-day, and I now invite him to address you.

C.—His Excellency Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett's first speech immediately on assumption of office at the Bihar Provincial Exhibition at Patna on the 15th March 1937.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is the first public ceremony which I have attended since I assumed office as Governor of Bihar. May I in the first place thank the organisers of this exhibition for inviting my wife to give away the prizes on this occasion and all those present here to-day for the reception which they have given us. May I also take this opportunity of saying how extremely grateful my wife and I are to the people of Bihar for the very warm and cordial reception that has been accorded to us on our return to the province. As one newspaper put it the other day, our arrival at Patna station a few days ago was of the nature a home-coming and indeed it seemed like that to us, for we have spent many years of our life in Patna and I have taken part in many of the ceremonies which have marked the growth and development of the Capital of the province. But the pleasure of a home-coming lies not merely in coming back to a place that one knows well, and which one associates with many pleasant incidents of the past; the pleasure arises more from meeting and greeting old friends and that certainly has been our experience during the last few days. We have already met very many old friends, while many who were unable to be in

Patna on this occasion have been good enough to send me most cordial letters and telegrams of congratulations on my new appointment. It is a great encouragement to me at the start of my work to receive such manifestations of goodwill and such a cordial welcome, and to know how wide is the circle of my friends. I trust that during the years in which I hold this high office, that circle of friends will grow, that I shall not merely keep my old friends but make many new friends both in those parts of the province of which I have little knowledge and from other sections of the public with whom in the past I have not been brought in contact.

We all of us have one object in view, the improvement of the province which we love, and this exhibition is a good example of the measures which are being taken for the economic development of the province. Bihar is not an industrial province and its inhabitants must rely mainly on agriculture for their livelihood. But it has long been recognised that agriculture by itself is not sufficient for the many millions which form the rural population of Bihar; we have to do all we can to improve and develop agriculture, but we must also do all we can to improve and develop industries both small and great. Industries cannot succeed unless the manufacturer can find a market for his goods and the main object of this exhibition and of the Commercial Museum under whose auspices it is being held is to advertise the products of Bihar. We have many good craftsmen in the province and this exhibition shows what excellent articles they can produce. I cannot claim any very intimate knowledge of all these cottage industries, but I well recollect when I was District Officer of Gaya visiting a small village of carpet weavers. They were very skilled workmen for they copied with the greatest exactitude a pattern which I gave them. They were however at that time experiencing difficulty in finding a market for their goods and were unable to compete successfully with machine-made carpets. They have now I understand been helped by the Industries Department and I have no doubt that if they are taught improved methods of manufacture and if their goods are advertised, they will find ready market and that the weavers of Obra will soon become a flourishing industrial community. Again when I was Commissioner of Bhagalpur I saw something of the silk weavers of Bhagalpur. I still have some shirts which I bought 8 or 10 years ago which proves the quality of the work which they do. Measures have I understand been taken to help these indigenous weavers and I gather with success. During my recent visit to England wherever I visited a shop selling " Cottage Industries ", and Lady Hallett always enjoys visits to such shops, I always made a point of enquiring whether they had any Bhagalpur silk or any of the products of the Bihar Cottage Industries Institute and I was astonished and gratified to find that those articles command ready sale in England and were obtainable both in large shops such as Liberties in London and also in smaller shops in the smaller towns. I feel sure that if we advertise our goods, if our craftsmen keep up-to-date by adopting new patterns and new designs, we can develop this work to a very large extent. I have quoted these two industries as examples of what can and is being done, because I have a little personal knowledge of them. There are, as indeed this exhibition shows, many other industries which can be similarly developed and both Lady Hallett and I will always do all we can to help in this work, for though possibly the results are not spectacular yet they contribute to the relief of the proverty of the province and the cumulative effect of many small efforts may be considerable.

Though this exhibition is mainly of cottage industries, I am very glad to see that two new features have been introduced this year, dancing and music. It is a good idea to develop indigenous industries and it is also an

excellent idea to try to develop indigenous amusements. The ordinary villager in a Bihar village has little or nothing to relieve the monotony of his life and by encouraging dancing and music we are doing something to improve the conditions under which he lives and to make his life happier.

I congratulate those who have organised this very successful exhibition. I congratulate the craftsmen and other exhibitors on the excellence of the articles which they have displayed and I now leave to Lady Hallett to present the prizes which have been so well earned.

APPENDIX IV.

Sources of information available to public.

CHAPTER I.—POLITICAL AND GENERAL EVENTS.

Report on the General Elections in Bihar, January 1937.

Supplement to the Report on the General Elections in Bihar, January, 1937.

CHAPTER II.—FINANCE.

Financial statements for Bihar in 1936-37 and the Budget Estimate for 1937-38.

CHAPTER III.—THE LEGISLATURE.

Proceedings of the Bihar Legislative Council (Volumes XXXV, XXXVI).

CHAPTER IV.—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Resolutions reviewing the reports on the working of the district boards and municipalities in Bihar during 1936-37.

Resolutions on the working of union boards and panchayats in Bihar during the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER V.—EDUCATION.

The Fifth Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Bihar (dealing with the period from April 1, 1932, to March 31, 1937).

Bihar Council of Women—Report for the year 1937.

CHAPTER VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RELIEF.

Annual Public Health Report of the Province of Bihar for the year 1936 and the Annual Vaccination Report for the year 1936-37.

Annual Report of the Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna, for the year 1936-37.

Annual Report of the Darbhanga Medical School for the year 1936-37.

Annual Report of the European Mental Hospital at Ranchi for the year 1936.

Annual Report on the working of the Ranchi Indian Mental Hospital, Kanke, in Bihar, for the year 1936.

Annual Report on the working of the Radium Institute, Patna, for the year 1936.

Annual Report of the Pasteur Institute, Patna, for the year 1936.

Annual Report on the working of the Itki Sanatorium in Ranchi, in Bihar, for the year 1936.

Annual Returns of the Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bihar for the year 1936.

CHAPTER VII.—MAINTENANCE OF THE PEACE, ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND JAILS.

Annual Report on the Administration of the Police Department for 1936.

Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice for 1936.

Report on the Administration of Civil Justice for 1936.

Administration Report on Jails in Bihar for 1936.

CHAPTER VIII.—EXCISE.

Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in the Province of Bihar for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER IX.—THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE.

Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar for the year 1936-37.

Report of Wards, Encumbered, Trust and Attached Estates for 1936-37.

Annual Report on the Survey and Major Settlement operations in Bihar for the year 1937.

Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Province of Bihar for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER X.—AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION.

Annual Report of the Agricultural Department for 1936-37.

Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department for 1936-37.

Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bihar for 1936.

Season and Crop Report for 1936-37.

CHAPTER XI.—COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines for India for 1936.

Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in the province of Bihar, 1936.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Boilers Act V of 1923 in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1936-37.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Partnership Act, 1932, in the Province of Bihar, for 1937.

Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Province of Bihar, for the year 1936-37.

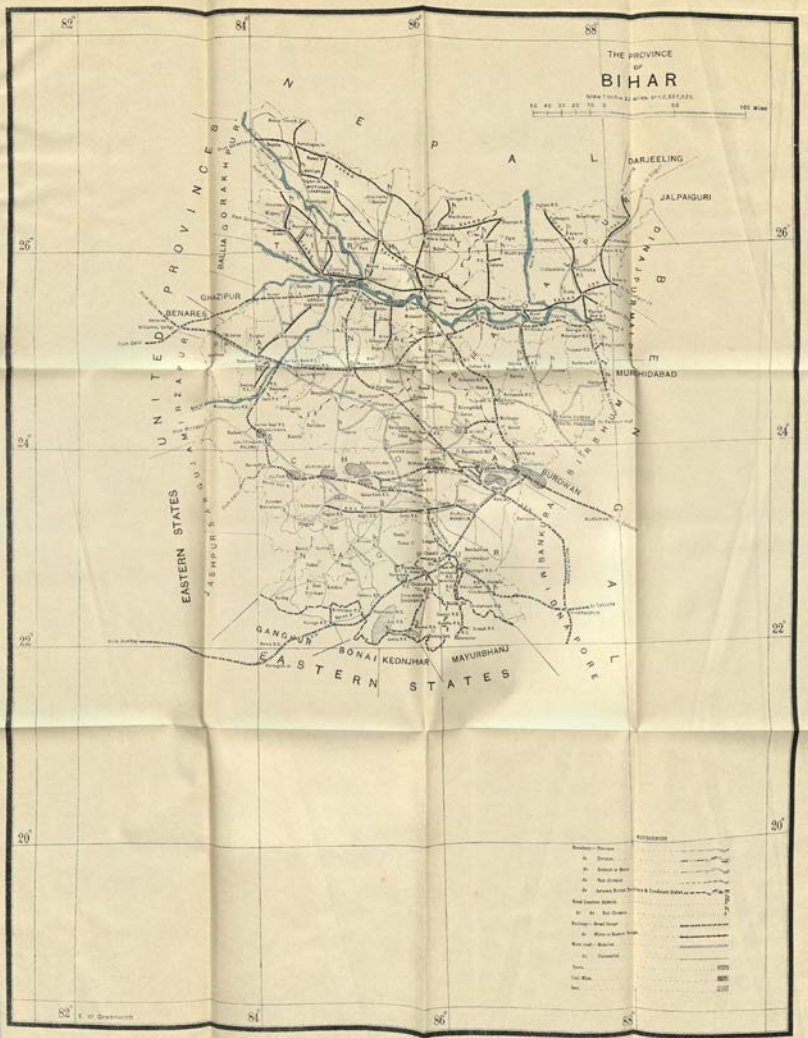
Annual Report of the Director of Industries for 1936-37.

GLOSSARY.

VERNACULAR.		ENGLISH.
Ayurvedic	...	Medical science of the Hindus.
Bakrid	...	A Muslim festival.
Bandh	...	Embankment.
Bhadai	...	Autumn crop.
Bhang	...	An intoxicating drug made from the leaves of the hemp plant.
Bigha	...	A varying unit of land measurement, generally about one-third acre.
Chaukidar	...	Village watchman.
Dasahra	...	A Hindu festival.
Ganja	...	The hemp plant which is smoked for intoxication.
Ghee	...	Clarified butter.
Gur	...	Raw sugar.
Harijan	...	Literally, creature of God. A term introduced by Mahatma Gandhi to designate members of the "depressed" Hindu castes.
Hakim	...	A Muslim village doctor.
Kamdar	...	Expert cultivator.
Kala-azar	...	Black fever.
Madrasa	...	School for education in Urdu, Persian and Arabic.
Maktab	...	Elementary village school for education in Urdu.
Pachwai	...	Beer made from grain, usually rice.
Panchayat	...	A committee, a body of arbitrators, originally five in number.
Pathshala	...	Elementary village school where Sanskrit is also taught.
Rabi	...	The spring harvest.
Takavi	...	Agricultural.
Tari	...	Fermented juice of the palm tree (toddy).
Vaidya	...	A doctor.

MEASUREMENTS.

80 tolas	= 16 chittaks = 1 seer (about 2 lbs. avoirdupois).
40 seers	= 1 maund.
1 lakh	= 1,00,000.
1 crore	= 100 lakhs.


THE PROVINCE
OF
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DINAJPUR
RAJSHAHI
UNITED PROVINCES
BALLIA
GORAKHPUR
MIRZAPUR
GHAZIPUR
BENARES
SHAHPURA
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